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INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

JUNE 1979
VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

BEAR BRYANT AND THE GOLDEN 70's

INAUGURAL ISSUE

'BAMA
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE:

Dear Friends:

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your support of **'BAMA Magazine.**

Alabama fans, like their teams, are a very special group of people and I want you to know that no cost will be spared in bringing you the first-class publication you deserve. It is an honor to represent Alabama sports.

Our first issue is dedicated to the Seventies. It has been a very rewarding experience researching the Crimson Tide's accomplishments during this decade which are unprecedented in all of college sports. A great deal of time and effort have gone into finding the photos which will enable you to keep this magazine as a lasting momento of this great era.

'BAMA will come to you weekly during the football season and monthly during the balance of the year. Of course, its emphasis will be on football and basketball; however, we will cover all men's and women's intercollegiate sports.

In closing, I would like to say that **'BAMA** is your magazine. We welcome your comments and suggestions at any time. We are totally dedicated to making **'BAMA** what you want it to be.

Warmest personal regards,

Thomas R. LeDuc
Publisher

LeDuc Enterprises, Inc.

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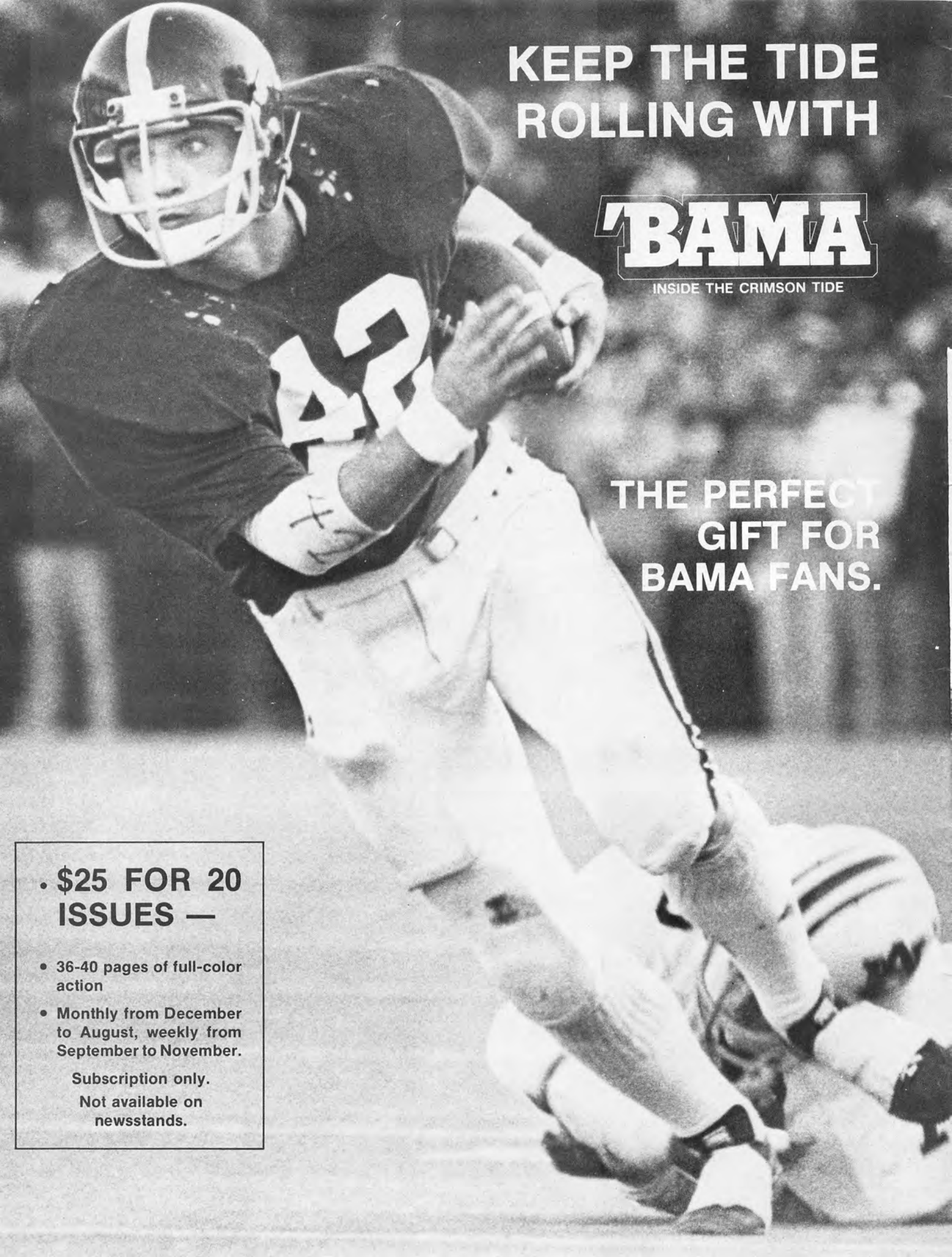
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SURVEYING THE TALENT TO FOLLOW A TOUGH ACT

by Kirk McNair

It's a tough act that the 1979 University of Alabama Crimson Tide football team has to follow, but if spring training is any indication, Bama fans have something to look forward to this fall.

Although some great football players have graduated, the overall picture has to be considered pleasing. There are 16 starters returning when you include the two kickers, and there is a possibility that only four positions (quarterback, strong safety and the two linebacker spots) will have men starting who have never started a game. Spring indications are that quarterback is in good shape if injury does not strike Steadman Shealy; linebacker play will be at least adequate and perhaps far better than one would expect in view of the losses at that position; and strong safety remains something of a question mark.

Coach Bryant was expectedly somewhat pessimistic in evaluating Tide chances in 1979, but at least he was more optimistic than he had been before spring training began. In early January, he noted the severe losses that Alabama had suffered to graduation over the past two years and said, "this year may be the first in a long time when we've been down around the bottom in the Southeastern Conference personnel-wise." That may have been the national championship of crying towel.

Following spring drills, coach Bryant announced the winners of regular spring awards. They were:

LeeRoy Jordan Headhunter Award — Wayne Hamilton

(continued)

Jerry Duncan I Like To Practice Award — Gary DeNiro

Billy Neighbors Most Improved Defensive Back Award — Mike Clements

Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman Award — Mike Brock

Ray Perkins Most Improved Receiver Award — Tim Travis

Johnny Musso Most Improved Offensive Back Award — John Hill

Coach Bryant's evaluation was, "I think

(continued)

Warren Lyles (No. 91, left) appears to be the top nose guard for the Crimson Tide going into fall practice, but Alabama coach Paul Bryant (right) believes his returning players must "work hard this summer" to fill the shoes of last year's championship team.

our offense is pretty well set and our kicking game will be adequate, but I'm disappointed in our inability to replace all of our losses adequately. Overall, we have a fine bunch of youngsters and the first bunch took pride in what we were trying to do and did real well. But we had too many injuries, particularly on the defense, and among our young people who haven't played much or at all, we had too many followers, not enough wanting to take charge.

"I think that our only chance to have a good football team next fall is to be lucky injury-wise and to have some surprises, people who are a lot better when they come back than they are now. But it's not going to happen by accident. They are going to have to take care of themselves and work hard this summer."

Alabama had a different approach to spring training this year than in previous years. The first third of the 20 spring drills was devoted to small groups working on technique, a move designed to prevent injuries. Coach Bryant said that the jury is still out on whether that was a good plan, "but they all got in some work and I think we know a lot about all of them."

A primary question of the spring, of course, concerned quarterback, where Jeff Rutledge has graduated after two all-star seasons. Steadman Shealy, who has been a backup man the past two years, is still on the road to recovery from knee surgery of last spring and did not take part in contact work this spring.

"So much of what kind of team we have depends on Steadman staying sound," said coach Bryant. "The quarterback situation beyond that is about as mixed up as it was before spring training started. All of them gave terrific effort, maybe too much. Sometimes I felt that they were pressing too hard. It's like trying to play golf; sometimes you're much better if you just relax and execute. I think, too, that it was difficult to try to work as many as we did."

Beyond Shealy, who was tackled only once in spring training (and that was an accident), Bama had junior Don Jacobs (who worked much of the spring at safety), sophomore Jim Bob Harris (who started part of last season, including the Sugar Bowl, at safety), redshirted sophomore Alan Gray (who won the Dixie Howell Award as the outstanding player in the spring game and who also saw action at running back and split end) and redshirted freshman Tommy Wilcox (who also saw duty at strong safety late in spring work) in the quarterback spot.

"I'm worried about Jim Bob because he was hurt last fall and this spring and he told me that he had been hurt a lot in high school," said coach Bryant.

If one had to guess — and it's only a guess because coach Bryant is waiting until fall to make up his mind — it would be that Shealy would be the starter with Jacobs (on the basis of experience primarily) behind him and Wilcox in the third spot. Gray will probably keep his hand in it, but also be used to give depth at running back and split end. Harris looks likely to return to safety.

The working of quarterbacks at various positions was part of a number of experiments at Alabama's spring training. E.J. Junior, a starting defensive end last year, saw duty at strong safety until late in the spring, when coach Bryant moved him back to end "to get him closer to the action." The Tide head coach noted that "we badly need a strong safety and I don't know who it will be." He said that Ben Orcutt, who worked at both running back and defensive back in the spring, "is a real competitor who is going to help somewhere." Gary DeNiro, a defensive end who has played tight end and noseguard, saw duty at linebacker "because we're so young and shorthanded there. I think Gary can play anywhere," said coach Bryant. He also moved Billy Jackson, the Tide's third leading rusher last year as the No. 2 fullback, to left halfback, Tony Nathan's old spot. Coach Bryant also noted that several offensive linemen had been switched from guard to tackle or vice versa, but Bryant and his assistants are about the only ones who would notice such a change since there is little difference in the positions.

Bama was able to move Jackson from halfback to fullback for a couple of reasons. Coach Bryant called walk-on (for now) junior fullback John Hill "probably the most improved and under-rated player. He did everything well this spring." The Bama head coach then said "when you start talking about our good football players you have to start with Steve Whitman (senior fullback). He has good body lean, runs behind his shoulders and if he stays sound, he's going to have a lot of people arm tackling him. Mike Brock, Dwight Stephenson and Jim Bunch are a step ahead of the others on offense, although Buddy Aydelette plays two positions (tight end and offensive tackle) and puts a lot into it. Our first offense is pretty well set, but it's slow. In the backfield you have Billy Jackson, Steve Whitman, Major Ogilvie and Steadman Shealy. Across the front you have Tim Travis (tight end), Jim Bunch and Buddy Aydelette (tackles), Vince Boothe and Mike Brock (guards) and Dwight Stephenson (center) with Keith

A large burden falls on Steadman Shealy (No. 10, left), who must recover from knee surgery in 1978 to take the place of graduated Jeff Rutledge.

Pugh at wideout. That's a pretty solid bunch of citizens. They'll all hit you. All we lack is speed. The nearest to them are Mitch Ferguson, Eddie McCombs and Wiley Barnes."

Ferguson will backup at left halfback and fullback, after having been a starting right halfback in 1977 and redshirted last year, while McCombs will backup at tackle and Barnes at tackle and center.

"Defensively, Wayne Hamilton had a good spring. Junior and DeNiro were moving around, but they did fine. Mike Pitts is improved and does a good job on pass rush," said coach Bryant of the ends. John Mauro, another experienced end, was injured most of the spring (knee) but is expected to be ready this fall.

As for the down linemen, coach Bryant said, "Curtis McGriff is improved and Warren Lyles is a good football player. David Hannah is good and steady, but we've got to pray over his injury (a knee that twice required surgery last year keeping him out of all but a few plays in 1978). Byron Braggs has ability and had some big plays, but he was injured and inconsistent. Thomas Boyd and Robbie Jones have so much speed that even though they are little, they are good linebackers. Randy Scott is a contact player. Ricky Rozzell doesn't have much speed, but he'll hit you.

"In the secondary, Don McNeal is a good football player and Mike Clements showed a lot of improvement until he got hurt (cut hand), but I don't know who else we've got back there. A non-scholarship player, Prince Colley, improved and he will hit you, although I don't know how sound he is." Safety-cornerback Ricky Tucker did not take part in spring drills, still nursing the hamstring pull that took him out of action the day before the Sugar Bowl, and two promising young defensive backs, Greg Haynes and Jerrill Sprinkle, were injured, Haynes quite seriously.

"We have some young linemen who have a chance if they show a lot of improvement," said coach Bryant. "Joe Beazley is ahead of them, but Scott Homan and Jackie Cline are in there. We've got some young offensive linemen who have got to come through for us, too, and I'll be disappointed if they don't: Denny Merritt, Scott Allison, John Cook, Joe Robbins, Bob Dasher, Gary Bramblett, Bill Searcey and Vince Cowell."

He said that the kicking game "should be adequate as far as the kickers themselves are concerned, but what kind of kicking game you have depends on who you've got to go with them and that takes speed, which we don't have. We have the same kickers back — Woody Umphrey punting and Alan McElroy on extra points and field goals, plus a new one, Johnny Brooker (nephew of former Tide placekicker-end Tommy), on placekicking. And Timmy Clark is probably our best kickoff man."

Tight end Bart Krout did not take part in spring drills, but is expected to return in the fall at full strength to vie for the top spot at that position.

Ferguson, McNeal and Ogilvie appear to be top prospects for kickoff returns, Ogilvie for punt returns. A top punt return man might have been Larry Sistrunk, but late in spring drills Sistrunk (who had quit after having been a freshman in 1976) gave up football again.

The Tide head coach summed up spring training by saying, "all-in-all it was nothing to write home about or jump up and down over."

A guess at a two-deep going into fall drills, without taking into consideration incoming freshmen, would be:

OFFENSE: Split end, Keith Pugh-Keith Marks; left tackle, Buddy Aydelette-Eddie McCombs; left guard, Mike Brock-Scott Allison; center, Dwight Stephenson-Joe Robbins; right guard, Vince Boothe-Bill Searcey; right tackle, Jim Bunch-Wiley Barnes; tight end, Tim Travis-Bart Krout (Krout did not take part in spring drills, but is expected to be recovered this fall); quarterback, Steadman Shealy-Don Jacobs; left halfback, Billy Jackson-Mitch Ferguson; right halfback, Major Ogilvie-Joe Jones; and fullback, Steve Whitman-John Hill.

DEFENSE: Left end, Wayne Hamilton-Gary DeNiro; right end, E.J. Junior-Mike Pitts or John Mauro; left tackle, Byron Braggs-Scott Homan; right tackle, David Hannah-Joe Beazley; noseguard, Warren Lyles-Curtis McGriff; strongside linebacker, Randy Scott-Ricky Rozzell; weakside linebacker, Thomas Boyd-Robbie Jones; left halfback, Don McNeal-Ben Orcutt; right halfback, Mike Clements-Bobby Smith (who did not take part in spring drills); strong safety, Bobby Marks-Ricky Tucker; and safety Ricky Tucker-Jim Bob Harris. ★

NEXT STOP: THE NFL

by Molly Martin

It was probably no surprise when Barry Krauss and Marty Lyons were first round selections in the National Football League draft held May 3-4. And Tony Nathan going quickly to pro football could hardly be considered a stunner. That Rich Wingo was picked up midway through the selection process is probably about what he and most followers of football would have expected.

But Jeff Rutledge not going until the ninth round? How do you explain it? Perhaps the pro coaches are just more skilled at spotting talent than coach Bryant, huh?

Former Tider Ray Perkins, now in his first head coaching position in professional football, could have picked up Jeff for the quarterback-poor New York Giants, but didn't (to hisses and boos of Giants fans at the draft headquarters in New York). It was the ninth round when the Los Angeles Rams, who carried only two quarterbacks (Pat Haden and Vince Ferragamo) last year, got a fifty dollar gold piece for fifty cents.

The last time that an Alabama player was so obviously overlooked was Woodrow Lowe, who was a mid-draft pick by the San Diego Chargers in 1975 and who hasn't missed starting a game in the three years he's been with them.

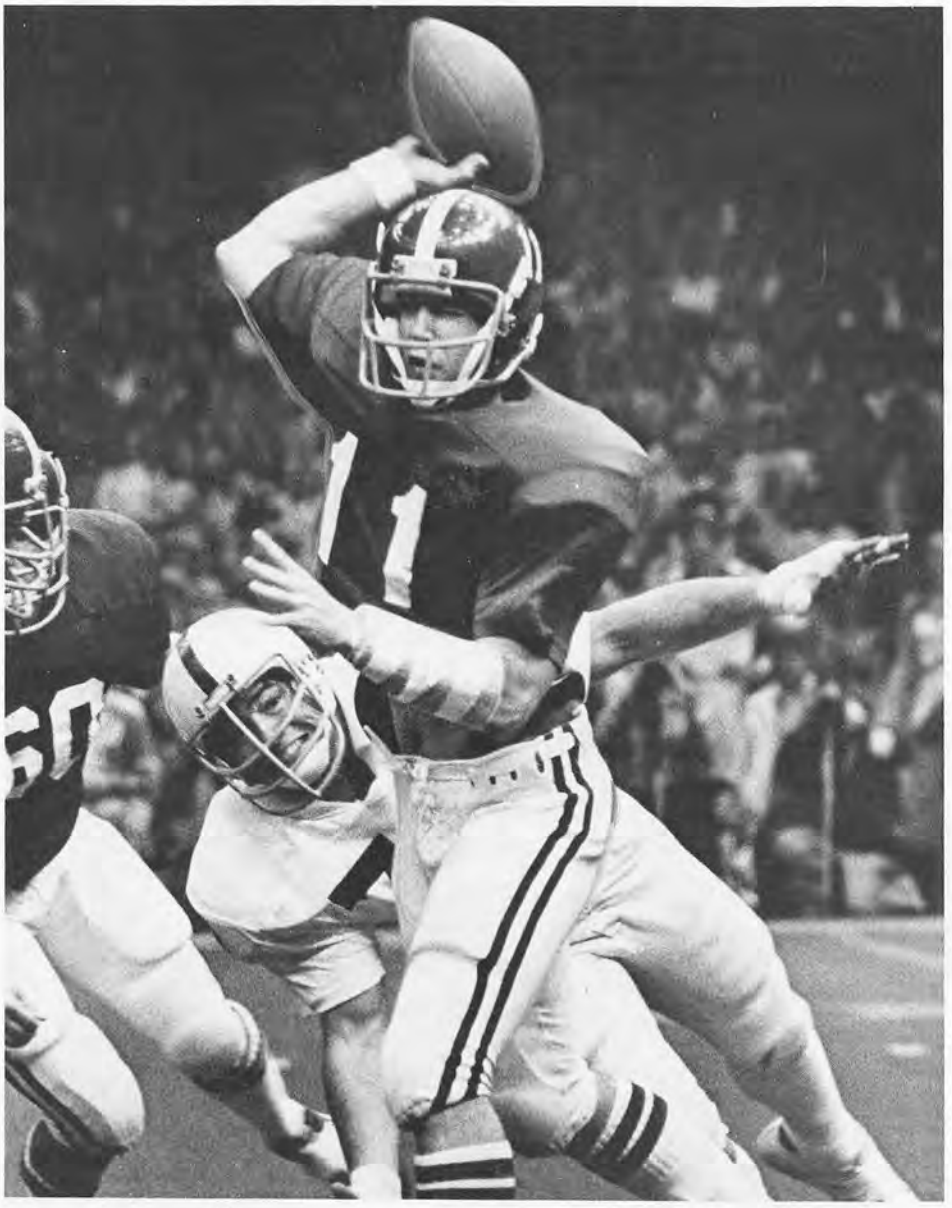
The story around the pros now is that "Rutledge may be too small" for NFL competition. Too small for what? To take the beating? As a wishbone quarterback he's taken more licks in a year than most NFL quarterbacks will get in a lifetime. Too small to pass? Tell it to Joe Namath, whose name is no longer in the Alabama record book under "career touchdown passes thrown." Jeff Rutledge's name is there now. Too small to win? Check with 31 of 36 football opponents the past three years who have watched Rutledge lead the Tide to victory, or to the members of the West team in the Shrine Bowl or to the North players in the Senior Bowl.

As a Los Angeles newspaper columnist wrote when hearing the "too small" line on Rutledge, "One thing we know about Rutledge is that he's a competitor — toughest against the toughest. At 6-2 or 5-2 the heart beats out the same tune, W-I-N-N-E-R."

Jeff, too, was at a loss to explain it, but he's not unduly concerned. "All I want is a chance to prove myself," he said.

Krauss, who was the sixth man picked, was not surprised that Baltimore got him. "I had talked to them and everyone knew pretty much how things were going to go," said Barry. "I think it's a good place for me. Baltimore needs defensive help and little else to be a fine team."

Lyons was the 14th man selected. He's



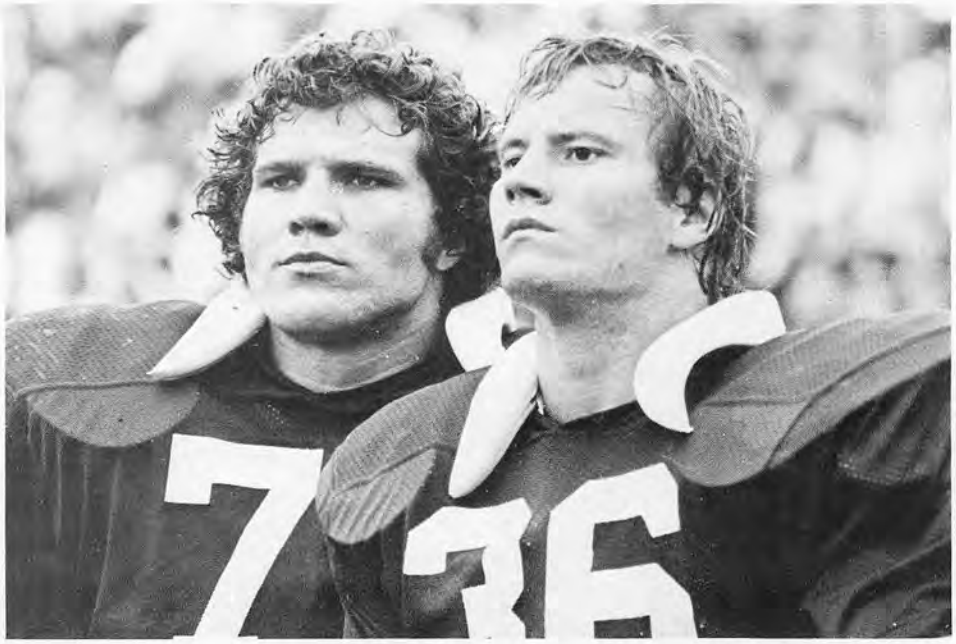
The surprise of the draft for Tide followers was the ninth-round selection of quarterback Jeff Rutledge. But, as one LA columnist wrote, "he's a competitor."

going to be with the New York Jets, where Richard Todd is expected to be back at quarterback. They can compare notes on Bob Baumhower, now with the Miami Dolphins. Todd was Baumhower's roommate before graduating. When Richard left, Lyons moved in with Bob. The alumni of that room at Bryant Hall are making some bucks.

No one at Alabama was surprised that Nathan went to the Dolphins. Baumhower had been in Tuscaloosa for several weeks prior to the draft and had told Tony and others at the athletic department that Miami really wanted Tony and would take him in either the second or third round, depending on how many of their top offensive line picks they could get first.

Wingo, who was picked by Green Bay in the seventh round, joins former Tide teammate Terry Jones, who is playing defensive tackle for the Packers. Rich wasn't born at the time, but there's another man with the Packers who holds a University of Alabama degree, head coach Bart Starr.

This year's draft swells the ranks of Bama players in professional football. Assuming that all who were playing last year return, the roster includes quarterbacks Scott Hunter of Atlanta, Ken Stabler of Oakland and Richard Todd of the New York Jets; running backs Johnny Musso of Chicago, Wilbur Jackson of San Francisco and Johnny Davis of Tampa Bay; offensive linemen John Hannah and Bob Cryder of New England; defensive linemen Bob Baumhower of Miami, Charley Hannah of Tampa Bay and Terry Jones of Green Bay; linebackers Woodrow Lowe of San Diego and Paul Harris of Tampa Bay; tight end Ozzie Newsome of Cleveland; and defensive backs Mike Washington of Tampa Bay and Ricky Davis of Kansas City. ★



Left: Linebackers Barry Krauss (left) and Rich Wingo both depart to the pro ranks, leaving Bear Bryant with some big shoes to fill at that position. Top left: Tony Nathan (No. 22) was selected by the Miami Dolphins, to no one's surprise. Above: Marty Lyons will join the New York Jets, where former Crimson Tide standout Richard Todd quarterbacks the team.

ALABAMA FANS

Following The Tide

by Mike Bolton

Question: What does Birmingham, Alabama have in common with such places as New York City, Bridgeport, Pennsylvania and prisons in Missouri and in Sussex, England?

Answer: Some of its finer citizens are members of a remarkable breed known as the Alabama football fan.

No matter where you travel on the North American continent or in a lot of places overseas, you are never too far from someone who might whip out his red cowboy hat with the white "A" and cut loose with a throaty "Roll Tide Roll."

The Alabama fan comes in many shapes, sizes and colors and hails from all sorts of professions, but one thing remains constant: You will never find one who can be classified as an "average" Alabama fan.

September 8, 1979, will be Tony Brandino's anniversary. That date doesn't just happen to coincide with Alabama's season opener with Georgia Tech in Atlanta, however.

Brandino's anniversary will be his 275th, or, in more simple terms, September 8th will be the 275th consecutive Alabama football game he has attended. The Birmingham businessman's string began in 1954 and only a few misses dot his record.

"I wish I could say I was an Alabama graduate, but I can't," said Brandino, owner of a specialty hardware business. "I gradu-

Tony Brandino (left) will celebrate his 275th anniversary Sept. 8—he's been to that many consecutive Alabama football games!

ated from Woodlawn High School in 1934 and then a person was lucky just to get out of high school."

Brandino's non-alumnus status surely hasn't dampened his loyalty to Alabama football. He has seen every game Paul "Bear" Bryant has coached at Alabama and adds, "God willing, coach Bryant and I will last it out and beat the record for most wins ever by a college football coach."

One must wonder what a 62-year-old man is doing chasing around the country after youngsters playing a game.

"It has really got kinda personal to me," Brandino said. "I began the streak before any of the present players were born and I sorta feel like they *are* my boys. I know the coaches and most of the parents real well and it's really like a family situation.

"I've been parking in the same space at the football games for eight years, and a Saturday doesn't go by that some of the players, their families or some ex-players drop by to say hello. It makes me feel good."

Brandino saw his first Alabama game "around 1934" when Bryant and the likes of Don Hutson and Dixie Howell were playing, and the young paperboy found that by selling 50 papers outside the stadium, he would get in for free.

"I saw maybe three or four games a year until 1954 and the streak began," he said. "I sure didn't intend for it to be a streak. First thing I knew, I had seen 10 in a row, then 25, 50, 100 200 and now, 274."

The streak has almost ended on more than one occasion. In 1970, his plane was grounded in Shreveport, Louisiana, and he was forced to bus to Houston, Texas. He walked in the front gate just at the kickoff.

Brandino has also turned down a free trip to Switzerland he won and he took another trip to the Bahamas under the stipulation a special charter would get him back to Birmingham on Friday before game time.

"It's been tough some times, but I think it's been worth it," Brandino said. "The Lord has blessed me with good health — I've never even had a virus on game day — and the people have been nice. I was made an honorary member of the A-Club in 1963 and that was worth everything."

Johnny Nicola is another non-alumnus who has taken the Tide under his wing, but he comes from the unlikely city of Bridgeport, Pennsylvania.

Nicola became interested in Alabama football and started the Bridgeport Boosters

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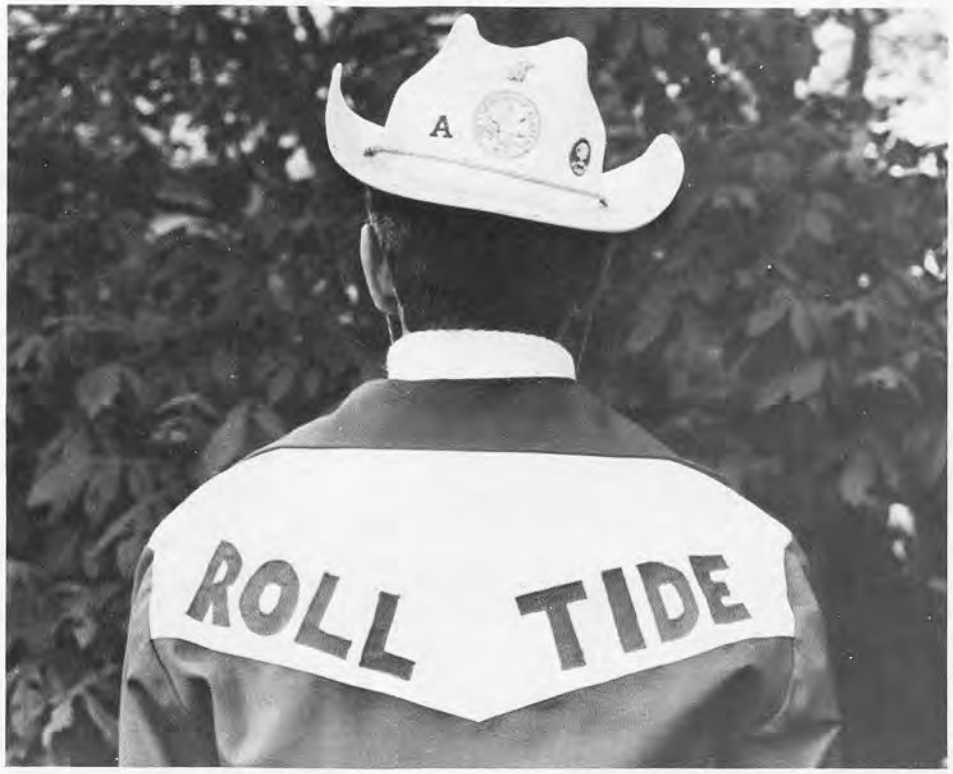


Sandy Leeds is a lawyer in New York City, but he still makes it to most of the Tide games, dressed in his red and white "Alabama" suit.

Club (20 non-Alabama graduates dedicated solely to Alabama football), and the rest is history.

His booster club has made an annual group trip to an Alabama game, donated a $1,000 scholarship to the athletic fund each of the past six years, and has done many Crimson Tide-related and worthwhile projects in the Bridgeport area, such as building a park for the elderly, complete with red and white benches.

"We don't like Notre Dame or Penn State, so we had to adopt a team," Nicola said. "My brother-in-law played for coach Bryant at Kentucky and he suggested this was the team we adopt. We came to an Alabama game and we loved the weather, the color, and the wide-open style of play and we knew Alabama was the team."

Not all of the intentions of Nicola's group are well appreciated. When Alabama downed Penn State in the Sugar Bowl for the 1979 national championship, Nicola figured what better way of recognizing this than a billboard proclaiming the Crimson Tide No. 1? He knows now it just wasn't the thing to do in Pennsylvania.

"I couldn't believe the flack we got because of that," Nicola said with a laugh. "It didn't say anything about Penn State or anything. It was just about Alabama. People wrote letters to the papers, made threats and everything. And the strange thing was that it was mostly Notre Dame fans causing all the trouble."

Every Alabama fan has gotten up on game morning, looked at the gloomy skies and wondered whether the drive to Birmingham or Tuscaloosa was worth it. If that happens to you, next time think of Sandy Leeds or Dianne Bostick, who make most of Alabama's games from New York City.

"I missed the Missouri game last year and couldn't make it to Washington, but I did fly to Tuscaloosa to watch the Washington game on closed-circuit TV," Leeds said from his law office in the Big Apple.

"I'm proud to say I'm an Alabama graduate. The university has everything. I got a good education and I'm reliving my youth by going back all the time. My wife doesn't let me date the coeds, but other than that, it's like being back in college again.

"I was a loner in college and couldn't wait to get to New York to all the plays and all that stuff, but once you get here, you find out it's not really worth that much compared to your feelings for your alma mater."

Leeds has sent two children to Alabama and both are now enjoying the college life their father now remembers with fondness. They still have a long way to go, however, before becoming as gung-ho Alabama as their father.

"I have four pictures of coach Bryant and three pictures of C.M. (Newton) hanging right here," Leeds said proudly, pointing to his office wall. "I see Alabama play basketball every time they get above the Mason-Dixon line. I just wish some relative had left me a trust fund so I didn't have to work and I could see all of Alabama's sports."

Dianne Bostick started the Greater New York Alabama Alumni Chapter and has seen it grow to the second most active Crimson Tide alumni chapter, behind Jefferson County. The vice president of Avondale Mills has been named vice president of the national alumni chapter and has received the Distinguished Alumni Award for her efforts.

"I make it to about three-fourths of the games," she said. "I may not stick out in a crowd as much as Sandy (who wears a red suit and white cowboy hat), but I'm there as often as possible.

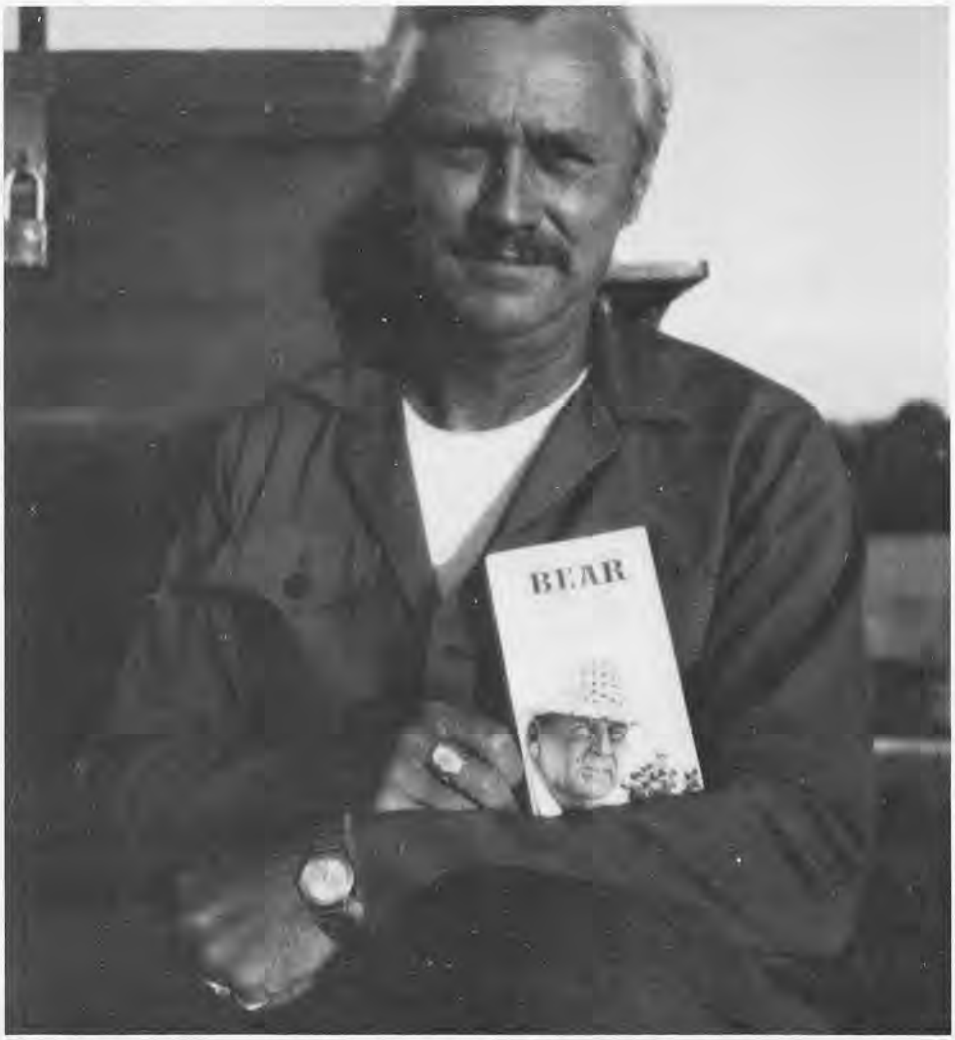
"The alumni association has made one big family out of us and has given us someone to lean on. It has been a very good thing."

The New York chapter boasts some 250 dues-paying members and Dianne hopes someday its numbers will surpass those of the Birmingham-Jefferson County chapter.

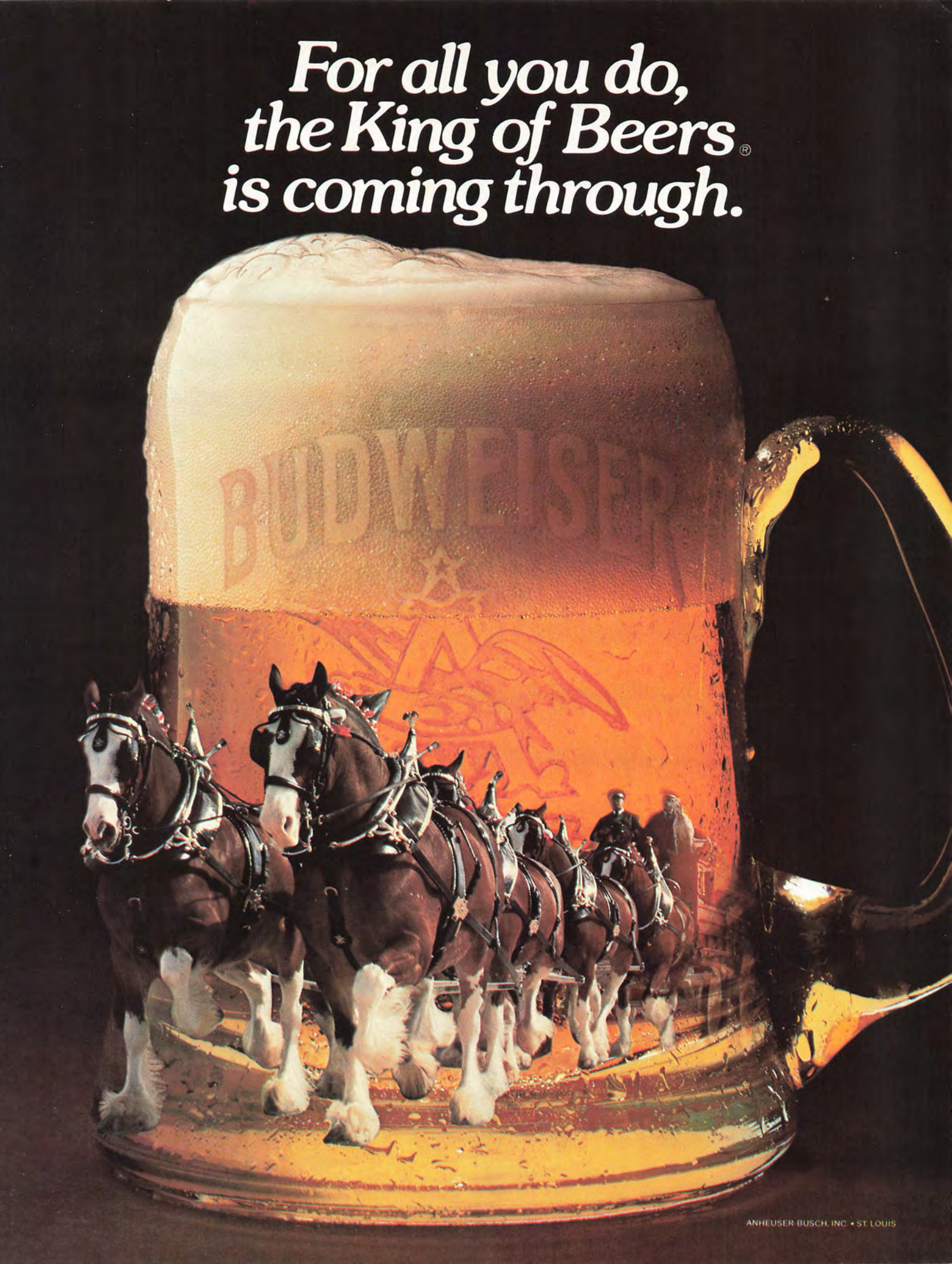
Allen Locke and Brian Duff are probably the most unlikely Alabama fans you will run across. Locke resides in the Missouri State Penitentiary and Duff calls Lewes Prison in England home. Both are pen pals of the Alabama athletic department.

"Thank God for Alabama and coach Bryant," Locke said in a letter last year. "I bet everything I owned on the Missouri-Alabama game and now I have 74 packs of cigarettes, six street shirts, nine pounds of coffee and a friend's Sunday eggs for a month. It pays to be an Alabama fan in Missouri!"

Duff has only seen Alabama play on television and has never even been to the United States, but he is spending his time in prison writing a book about Alabama football. He collects players' pictures, media guides and Alabama decals and says his ambitions in life are "to get out, see a swamp and watch an Alabama football game!" ★



Allen Locke supports Crimson Tide football from within the Missouri State Penitentiary. Above, he's holding "my most prized possession," the book which coach Bryant sent to him.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ALABAMA'S GOLDEN SEVENTIES

by Kirk McNair

Although Alabama was the winningest college football team of the 1960's with a 90-16-4 mark, the Crimson Tide emerged from the previous decade somewhat ingloriously with the poorest record ever of a Paul "Bear" Bryant team, 6-5.

When the 1970's began with an equally-poor 6-5-1 mark, there was little reason to suspect that the 1970's would put Bama again at the top of the heap in victories. But the incredible string of Bama successes in the last eight years of this soon-to-end decade has given the Crimson Tide unequivocal domination of twenty years of college football and has made it extremely likely that coach Bryant will win his second consecutive "Coach of the Decade" award.

When Alabama is winning, coach Bryant is the first to give credit to the players and assistant coaches. He even throws in (sincerely) the band, students, cheerleaders, alumni and the guy who does the laundry. Never does he list himself as important to the winning cause.

But let Alabama lose and all of a sudden all of those others who had helped Bama win weren't a factor. Coach Bryant lost the game, coach Bryant got outcoached, coach Bryant didn't do a good job of recruiting players, coach Bryant didn't do a good job of coaching the players. All this is the gospel according to coach Bryant.

Coach Bryant does a lot of things very, very well, but one of them is not convincing anyone that he is a poor coach. In fact, there is a very good case for considering him the best of all time. Any recent poll of head coaches, any recent poll of football fans — and there have been several of each — ranks him the best now and the best ever. And there are some excellent reasons, beyond just the incredible numbers: 284-77-16 all-time record and 193-38-8 Alabama record, five national championships and 13 conference titles, dozens of All-America players and almost 40 head college and pro coaches produced.

First of all, he has maintained an amazing record of winning for over a third of a century, an incredible feat akin to the work of Adolph Rupp in basketball. Second, he has successfully rebuilt three programs when they were at the bottom — Kentucky, Texas A&M and Alabama. Third, he has made a smooth transition through all stages of offensive and defensive fads and systems.

Fourth, he has fought a harder fight for football's forgotten man, the assistant coach, than any other man in the field. He set in motion a retirement plan for assistant coaches and he has fought against the NCAA limit of assistants.

Fifth, he is a complete gentleman on and off the field and this is reflected in the sportsmanlike play of his Alabama football teams. Check the record. Almost every Alabama opponent says after the game they never played a fairer team. Sixth, he is the most easily recognized individual in college football today, a legend in his own time.

It's not hard to spot these attributes and dozens of others in coach Bryant today, but consider the impact that he made on Bill Graham of the *Alexander City Outlook*

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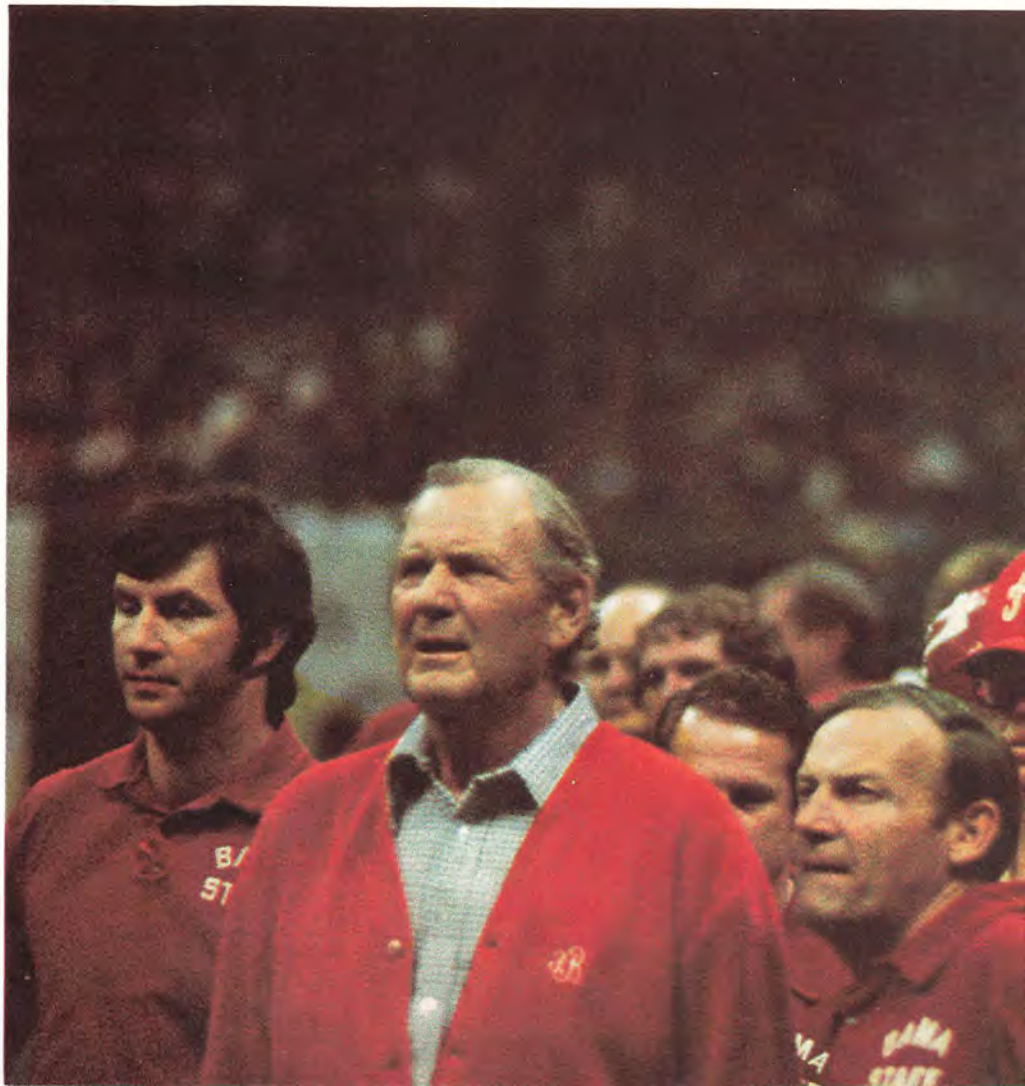

Left: Willie Shelby rushed for 104 yards and two touchdowns against Mississippi in a 35-21 Crimson Tide win in 1974. Right: Coach Bryant anxiously watches the sidelines in the 1975 Sugar Bowl against Penn State, a defensive battle similar to the 1979 Nittany Lions-Crimson Tide battle.

Tennessee opened its 1970s rivalry with the Crimson Tide with an impressive 24-0 win. Tennessee has lost eight straight to Bear Bryant's teams since 1970. Above, Richard Todd eludes a Tennessee tackler .

in a story published in the November 4, 1939, Alabama football program: "The same kind of courage that made him a great end in spite of a broken foot makes him the greatest coaching prospect ever to graduate at Alabama."

Almost every Alabama fan has a game or two that he particularly remembers. For many, it would be the game that began the incredible string of success, the 17-10 upset of No. 1-ranked Southern Cal in Los Angeles to open the 1971 season, the first game in which the Tide operated from the Wishbone offense.

Later that year, it would be Alabama vs. Auburn, with both undefeated for the first time ever and the Tide destroying Auburn and its Heisman Trophy winner Pat Sullivan 31-7. In 1972, Bama went from what appeared sure defeat in Knoxville to a 17-10 win over the Tennessee Vols. The 1973 team was awesome, with perhaps its closest call in a United Press International national championship year the 42-21 win over Tennessee, a game that was tied 21-21 in the fourth quarter. The best win in 1974 might easily have ranked among Bama's most embarassing losses, an 8-7 victory over winless Florida State in Tuscaloosa.

Big things had been predicted for Alabama in 1975, but the end seemed to come quickly as Missouri stunned the Tide in the opener in Birmingham. Eleven straight victories followed, however, including the wonderful 13-6 Sugar Bowl win over Penn State that snapped a long bowl drought. Success had been such that a 9-3 season in 1976 was considered a disaster, but the second straight bowl victory was a portent of things to come as underdog Alabama crushed UCLA in the freezing Liberty Bowl 36-6.

The Tide just missed on a National Championship in 1977, but the 21-20 victory over No. 1 ranked Southern Cal in Los Angeles and the 35-6 crushing of Ohio State in the Sugar Bowl, as well as a return to the throne room of the Southeastern Conference, made it a good year. There was a loss early in the 1978 season and a minor setback following final polls in early 1979, but all-in-all the most recent Crimson Tide football year was a joy. It began with an awesome 20-3 victory over Nebraska, the only team to measure up to Bama in 1977. It included come-from-behind victories over almost every foe, including Missouri, Vanderbilt, Washington, Florida, LSU and Auburn. And finally the best of all, the matchup of No. 1 ranked and unbeaten Penn State and No. 2 ranked Alabama for the National Championship in the Sugar Bowl, Bama winning 14-7 and being recognized by almost everyone as best in the land.

Going into the 1979 season the Tide boasts a nine-year record of 91-16-0. Only Oklahoma has as many wins, the Sooners also at the 91 mark.

Now let's us relive some of those great games of the 1970's.

1970

"It has been one of those years during which the Tide came right up to the brink of putting it all together, and then retreated."
—Dick Peebles, Sports Editor,
Houston Chronicle, Dec. 31, 1970

The seventies began horribly, with Bama taking advantage of the new NCAA rule allowing 11-game schedules. The Tide picked up Southern Cal, prompting Auburn's Shug Jordan to ask "Has Bear gone crazy?" It looked that way, although that scheduling move would pay dividends in the future.

The opener was a disaster. A quote has been attributed to several that, "Sam Cunningham did more in two hours to convince the people of Alabama that integration's time had come than anyone else had been able to do in generations." Cunningham ran roughshod over the Tide in a 42-21 Southern Cal mercy killing of Alabama. Never had coach Bryant's friendship with USC head coach John McKay been more valuable. The score was bad and could have been much worse.

It was, generally speaking, another miserable year for the Tide. Although Bama rebounded from the loss to Southern Cal to down Virginia Tech and Florida, the much-awaited return match of Ole Miss and Archie Manning against Alabama and Scott Hunter was not to be. Hunter suffered a shoulder injury in a non-contact practice on Thursday before the game and the Rebels rolled to an easy victory, revenge for the thrilling 33-32 Bama win of 1969. The Tide was back on the winning track against Vanderbilt, but then suffered the embarassment of a shutout loss at the hands of Tennessee in Knoxville. Alabama had not been shut out since the 1959 team fell to Penn State in the inaugural Liberty Bowl. Tennessee has not tasted victory against the Tide since.

The Tide was 3-3 when it went to Houston to meet the nationally-ranked Cougars in the Astrodome. It was to be the highlight of the Alabama season as the Tide came from behind to take a 30-21 victory. That win would propel Bama back to Houston

Richard Todd breaks across the line of scrimmage for yardage against the Vols. Todd helped snap the Tide's bowl game losing streak in 1976 as MVP in Alabama's 13-6 Sugar Bowl win over Penn State.

for the AstroBluebonnet Bowl. There was a win over Mississippi State, a close loss to LSU (also the Tigers' last win over Bama) and then a victory over Miami in which the Tide more or less ran up the score late, hoping to impress the bowl selectors. It didn't hurt, as Alabama was given that invitation. Still to come in the regular season was Auburn, and the Tide started out strong with a 17-0 lead, only to see Pat Sullivan lead the Tigers back to a 33-28 Auburn victory.

Oklahoma, another storied football name, had fallen on something like the bad times of Alabama with a 7-4 record. But coach Chuck Fairbanks had made a mid-season switch in offense to the Wishbone and his Sooners were on a winning streak going into the AstroBluebonnet Bowl. In many ways the game was to be a preview of things to come in 1971.

The bowl game wasn't the only thing going on in Houston. Coach Bryant was being honored as Man-of-the-Year and the banquet speaker was none other than Southern Cal's John McKay. McKay, as always, was humorous. With a glance at the honoree, as he was discussing trends in football, he said, "There's the new Texas T or Wishbone offense; you'll be interested to know that we're switching to that for our opener next year, Paul." At that time, coach Bryant wasn't thinking about the 1971 opener against Southern Cal in Los Angeles. And the only reason he was thinking about the Wishbone was because Oklahoma was running from it.

The bowl game was as exciting as they come. Oklahoma bolted to a 21-7 lead, but Bama roared back to go up, 24-21. With just under a minute to play, the Sooners went for the tie, kicking a field goal from the 32. Bama marched quickly back and with five seconds had a shot at victory with a 34-yard field goal.

Placekicker Richard Ciemny had kicked one field goal in the AstroBluebonnet Bowl and had never missed an extra point in the Astrodome. But his 34-yard try against Oklahoma was as far off the mark as a kick has ever been. And although Bama had broken its three-year bowl game losing streak, the Tide had still not won.

1971

"All that 200 stuff is fine, but what this really did that's important is hopefully give us some confidence. We haven't won many big games lately."

—Paul Bryant, Sept. 12, 1971

It was a sure thing that coach Bryant was going to get his 200th victory in 1971 since he had 199 going into the season, but more Tide followers probably expected it to come against Southern Miss in the second game of the year in Tuscaloosa than against Southern Cal in the first game in Los Angeles. One of the most meaningful pep rallies in Bama history occurred Wednesday night as the Tide practiced under the lights for the Friday night opener. Some 4,000 students attending the pep rally on the quad moved en masse to the Thomas Field practice facility that night and Bama players appreciated it.

But something more important than that had begun shortly after Bama's Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl tie. On the plane returning from Houston, coach Bryant sketched out the wishbone offense on a yellow legal pad. It didn't receive much attention in spring training, but before fall drills began coach Bryant told his staff "we're going to sink or swim with the wishbone." Just before his 58th birthday, coach Bryant was willing to ditch the better part of an offense that he had won with for years. He shifted three top defensive players to offense. And he led his team to an 11-0 regular season record against a schedule that included six nationally-ranked teams.

Johnny Musso won the West in the first upset of the season as he rushed for two touchdowns among his 16 carries for 85 yards against the Trojans. It's not recorded how the 7,000 Bama fans who followed the team to Los Angeles fared, because most of them stopped either going out or returning for a tough "scrimmage" against the varsity in Las Vegas. But win or lose there, they knew that Bama was back. And Tide

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CRIMSON GALLERY

Barry Krauss makes the hit of the season and stops Penn State from scoring. The impact of the hit rendered Krauss unconscious but many believe it turned the tide and secured a national championship for Alabama. This stop is truly one of the great moments in a star-filled decade of victories and championships for Bear Bryant and his phenomenal Crimson Tide.

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confidence showed. A 42-6 win over Southern Miss in Tuscaloosa was followed by a 38-0 shocker of Florida in Gainesville, where Musso scored four touchdowns over John Hannah's right side. It was 6-6 moments before half when the Tide met Ole Miss, but a touchdown pass from Terry Davis to David Bailey just before intermission ignited Bama to a 40-6 win. The second shutout of the year came against Vanderbilt, 42-0.

Alabama had come into the 1971 season leading the all-time Southeastern Conference standings by the narrowest of margins, .6647 to Tennessee's .6643, the Vols having made up 33 points in four years, primarily because the Big Orange had taken four straight wins from Alabama. Bama started its current winning streak against Tennessee with a 32-15 victory in a game that was not really that close. Eight Tennessee turnovers were good for Alabama's cause. After that, Houston and Mississippi State were victims and a showdown game was set up in Baton Rouge against LSU. The Tide took the win, 14-7, but it could have been costly as Musso was injured. He didn't play the next week (along with a half dozen other Tide first teamers), but Alabama topped Miami 31-3.

That brought up 10-0 Alabama against 9-0 Auburn in one of two national showdowns Thanksgiving weekend. Nebraska, Alabama's Orange Bowl foe, had already defeated Oklahoma, Auburn's Sugar Bowl opponent, 35-31, and Auburn's Pat Sullivan had already won the Heisman Trophy when the biggest football game the state of Alabama has ever hosted was played. It ranks high among Bama's best wins over Auburn. Musso, playing without practice since the LSU game and in a shoe designed by Alabama trainer Jim Goostree to protect his sprained toe, ran for 167 yards on 33 carries, not missing an offensive snap. Coach Bryant didn't want to start Musso, but then Tide assistant John David Crow (who had won the Heisman at Texas A&M in 1957 under coach Bryant) protested. "Coach," said Crow, "when you've got a stud horse you ride him. Start Johnny."

While Musso was terrific, the entire offense deserved credit. Alabama kept the football fully three quarters of the game, keeping the ball away from Auburn's talented passing team of Sullivan and split end Terry Beasley. And the defense held Sullivan to his worst day ever at Auburn, total offense of just 119 yards. The final score was 31-7 and it ended a two-year Auburn winning streak over Bama.

Thus was set up the college version of the Super Bowl. Alabama and Nebraska were meeting in the Orange Bowl, the Tide ranked No. 2 behind the top-rated Cornhuskers. There would not be another such matchup of No. 1 vs. No. 2 until 1978.

Nebraska quickly salted away the game and the national title with a 38-6 victory which was greatly aided by a mistake-laden Crimson Tide. A fumbled punt snap set up the first Nebraska score. The great Johnny Rodgers went 77 yards with a punt return. And Bama fumbled the ensuing kickoff to lead to another Nebraska touchdown. Alabama generosity extended another fumble, this at the Tide four, just before half to make it 28-0 at intermission. Bama had discovered that it hadn't come up with a come-from-behind offense in the Wishbone, something that had never been a problem in the previous 11 games. The final statistics were close, but the final 38-6 score wasn't and 16,000 Crimson Tide fans could be pleased only about the weather in Miami as 1972 began.

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Georgia stunned Alabama with a 21-0 win over the Tide in 1976, the first shutout for Bama's wishbone. The loss was avenged in 1977, the year Ozzie Newsome (above) set the Tide record for most yards gained on pass receptions (2,070 career yards).

(Left) Southern California played an important part in Alabama's football Seventies. In 1971, the Tide opened the season with a 17-10 upset of the No.1-ranked Trojans. The tables were turned in 1978, however, when USC upset the top-ranked Tide, 24-10. Left, Jeff Rutledge is brought down by SC's Rich Dimler and Garry Cobb after a gain in the '78 game.

1972

"Punt, Bama, Punt" —Most Auburn fans for the past six and a half years

Although there were 10 football victories and another SEC championship in 1972, and although the year included some outstanding victories you will be excused if you skip the next few paragraphs. For, inevitably, they will include the Tide's most embarrassing loss of the 1970's, or any other era.

Alabama was the only SEC team with eight conference games scheduled in 1972 and it turned out that the extra game would give Bama the league championship. The season included two incredible comebacks, one good and one horrible from an Alabama standpoint.

The Tide ripped through the first half of its season with little trouble before taking on Tennessee in Knoxville. Tennessee had fallen only to Auburn, which would be the miracle team of 1972. The Vols held a 10-3 lead on Bama in the closing minutes of that game when the Tide forced a punt. Starting at Tennessee's 48, Terry David hit Wayne Wheeler on a 20-yard completion and Steve Bisceglia went 26 yards to the Tennessee two. Wilbur Jackson scored from the two and it was decision time with 1:48 remaining. Tide linebacker coach Pat Dye (now head coach at East Carolina) pressured coach Bryant to kick the tying point, promising the head man that his defense would get the ball back in time to win. Alabama kicked the extra point to make it 10-10. On Tennessee's third down after the kickoff, Mike Dubose, who made 20 tackles in the game, forced a fumble and Bama recovered at the Vol's 22. On first down Davis went in for the score and Bama had come back, 17-10.

The Tide had already clinched the SEC championship when Alabama and Auburn squared off in the regular season finale. Auburn had had a fine season, but the Tide was expected to win. And with a 16-0 lead in the fourth quarter and Auburn having done nothing offensively, the game seemed to be in good shape. But Alabama got careless on two punts, almost carbon copies of each other, and Auburn blocked both to score touchdowns. Auburn had the greatest win in its history, 17-16, the only Alabama-Auburn game to really survive more than one season's memory.

It was an unenthusiastic Alabama which went to the Cotton Bowl to meet Texas at the conclusion of the season. In the battle of the nation's two most sophisticated wishbone offenses, Texas battled from behind to win 17-13. The Tide had taken a 10-0 lead on a 50-yard Greg Gantt field goal and a 31-yard touchdown run by Wilbur Jackson. However, the Longhorns battled back and got the clinching touchdown on a somewhat controversial 34-yard run down the sidelines.

1973

"We just ran out of time."
—Paul Bryant, Dec. 31, 1973

Alabama won a National Championship in 1973, but it was hard to claim it until the hurt had subsided a bit. UPI was awarding its championship based just on regular season play in those days and Bama's 11-0 run had been good enough for that title, regardless of the bowl outcome.

The Tide had three scares during the year, but kick returns ignited big Bama comebacks in all of them. Alabama trailed at Kentucky, 14-0, at the half, but when Willie Shelby broke the second half kickoff for a 100-yard touchdown, momentum shifted and the Tide cruised to a 28-14 victory in Lexington.

Two weeks later against Georgia in Tuscaloosa, the Bulldogs had Bama down 14-13 with time running out when Georgia punted to Shelby. He returned the kick 36 yards to the Georgia eight and seconds later quarterback Gary Rutledge went in with the go-ahead score. The Tide went on to a 28-14 win, scoring again in the final minute.

Alabama was 7-2 against Auburn in the 1970s, including wins in the past six contests. Left, Tony Nathan was a promising newcomer in 1975 when Bama beat the Tigers, 28-0.

Alabama and Tennessee were tied 21-21 going to the fourth quarter when the Vols punted to Robin Cary. Cary, who was better known as a slugging Bama outfielder on the baseball team, was used by coach Bryant as a "safe" punt return man because of his ability to judge and catch flies. Robin took it in at the Tide 36 and raced 64 yards up the middle, untouched. Moments later Wilbur Jackson went 80 yards to sew up what would be a 42-21 Bama victory.

The next week Bama ripped through Virginia Tech and NCAA and SEC record books with a 77-6 verdict. Alabama piled up 748 yards of rushing offense and 833 yards total offense, both new NCAA records, and tied a national record when four Tide backs went over 100 yards rushing in the same game — Wilbur Jackson, James Taylor, Calvin Culliver and Richard Todd.

Alabama closed out its undefeated season with a 35-0 blanking of Auburn.

It was then on to the Sugar Bowl to meet unbeaten Notre Dame, ranked third in the nation behind Bama's No. 1. If ever a Sugar Bowl Classic would outdo the Alabama-Duke effort of 1945, everyone expected this would be it. Often such dream games turn out to be dull, but this matchup of the two top names in college football was all that anyone could have desired in a football game. Unfortunately, it was not what Bama wanted in an outcome. Notre Dame came from behind to defeat Bama 24-23, a daring pass from the Notre Dame end zone icing the victory and the national championship for the Irish. Coach Bryant would say afterwards that he didn't feel that his team lost, that it just ran out of time.

1974

"I was scared to death."

—Alabama placekicker Bucky Berrey, Oct. 12, 1974

For the second year in a row and third time in four years, Alabama went through the regular season undefeated in 1974.

Quarterback Richard Todd's daring run from punt formation lifted Bama to a 21-14 decision at Maryland and the Tide was undefeated when it met the team with the nation's longest losing streak, Florida State, in Tuscaloosa. It was Oct. 12, the same date as the only loss Alabama has ever suffered under coach Bryant in Tuscaloosa (the Tide losing 10-6 to Florida on that date in 1963). It was supposed to be a laugher, but it was as close to disaster as a team can come. The Alabama defense could do nothing against the fired up Seminoles, who scored on their first possession. Alabama finally cut it to 7-3 with a third period field goal. With just under two minutes to play and backed up against its own goalline, Florida State made the strategically sound (but nevertheless questioned) move of taking an intentional safety, cutting the score to 7-5. Alabama got a good return off the free kick to midfield. Sophomore quarterback Jack O'Rear completed the first pass of his college career to Ozzie Newsome and when the drive stalled with half a minute to play, Bucky Berrey kicked a 36-yard field goal to give Alabama an 8-7 win.

Alabama was struck by injury throughout the year, particularly in the quarterback ranks where Gary Rutledge was lost for the year and Richard Todd was out frequently. The week after the Florida State game, coach Bryant took Todd to Knoxville to meet the Vols, but didn't dress him. "I'm glad I didn't have to use him," said the relieved coach after Bama got the 28-6 victory. Calvin Culliver and Willie Shelby scored two touchdowns each and the defense played its best game of the year. Coach Bryant admitted afterwards, "We'll be tough to beat."

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The Crimson Tide's defense cannot be neglected as a major factor in Alabama's fantastic 1970s record. At left, Warren Lyles (No. 91), Gary DeNiro (No. 51) and Marty Lyons (No. 93) bring down a Florida ball carrier.

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Bama coasted thereon until the Auburn game, and that was a difficult 17-13 win. At season's end, Bama had allowed just 7.5 points per game, second best in the nation.

Alabama and Notre Dame were rematched for Jan. 1, this time in the Orange Bowl. The Irish once again spoiled Bama's national championship hopes as the underdogs upset the Tide 13-11. Alabama had been ranked first in one poll, second in another (behind Oklahoma, on probation and not going to a bowl). Notre Dame was ranked eighth and ninth and playing in its last game for the highly-successful Ara Parseghian.

A Bama fumble gave Notre Dame an early touchdown and an Alabama penalty — the only one of the game against the Tide — kept another drive alive as the Irish jumped on top 13-0. Bama got a field goal in the second quarter and in the fourth period Todd hit Russ Schamun on a 48-yard score, then passed to tight end George Pugh to cut it to 13-11. Alabama drove back into Notre Dame territory for one final try, but a great interception by Notre Dame's Reggie Barnett ended Tide hopes.

1975

"We looked like a barnyard pickup crowd."
—Paul Bryant, Sept. 8, 1975

Alabama had won 22 regular season games in a row and 43 of its last 44 in regular season play when the Tide opened the 1975 season on national television in a Monday night game. Bama had been ranked first, second or third in virtually every poll. And the Tide was a prohibitive favorite to make Missouri its first victim of 1975, hopefully taking some of the sting off the seven months of living with the second loss to Notre Dame. But the Missouri Tigers, who have been among the nation's top spoilers for years, gave Bama its second consecutive loss in a 20-7 upset.

Later it would be pointed out that Bama might have done well to enlist the services of Samuel Pete McKnight as a running back. McKnight had made news the previous week by rushing three times for 11 yards for the Sterling (Kansas) College alumni team, which beat the varsity 14-13. McKnight was 74 years old.

One would have thought that Alabama had the runners with Willie Shelby, Calvin Culliver and James Taylor returning and newcomers Johnny Davis and Tony Nathan indicating promise. Bama's top rusher got 13 yards. Missouri's defense kept the Tide baffled all night and one game into the season it looked as if Alabama could qualify for National Disaster Assistance.

Coach Bryant said that if the team was made of the men he thought it was that Bama would rebound. And rebound the Tide did, to 11 consecutive victories. Most of the games were not even close, including a history-making meeting with Washington.

The game with Washington marked the 50th anniversary of Alabama's first Rose Bowl team, which met Washington following the 1925 season. Guests for the game included all surviving members of both teams, who had a grand reunion for two days in Tuscaloosa. The 1975 meeting of the two teams was far from the classic 20-19 struggle which Bama won on Jan. 1, 1926. The Huskies suffered in blistering heat and Bama rolled to a 52-0 verdict. When the Tide pasted Auburn 28-0, with Richard Todd running for two touchdowns and passing for two more, it gave Alabama a record fifth straight SEC championship.

Alabama had come back strong enough from that opening defeat to be ranked third in the nation. Going to the Sugar Bowl as the SEC's representative (under a new agreement that made the league king the host team in New Orleans), the Tide could look back on eight straight bowl games without a victory. Nebraska followers raised a howl that coach Bryant had locked the Cornhuskers out of the Sugar Bowl, forcing them to the Fiesta Bowl (where, incidentally, they were beaten by Arizona State).

Penn State provided the opposition in New Orleans and the Lions were ranked eighth in the nation. It was a rematch of sorts in that Penn State was Bama's first bowl opponent under coach Bryant (the Lions winning the inaugural Liberty Bowl in freezing Philadelphia, 7-0, following the 1959 season). And it was also history-making in that it was the first Sugar Bowl in the fabulous new Superdome. Like the more recent Alabama-Penn State matchup in the Sugar Bowl, this was a defensive gem. And perhaps not as memorable now as that latest Penn State game, it was a good one for the Tide as the bowl drought was snapped, 13-6. Richard Todd was a unanimous choice for MVP as he hit on 10-of-12 passes for 210 yards, one of them setting up the winning touchdown run by Mike Stock. Penn State coach Joe Paterno called Todd's game "one of the greatest performances I've seen by a quarterback in my days at Penn State."

1976

"What you saw out there was the real Alabama."
—Alabama noseguard Colenzo Hubbard, Dec. 20, 1976

For the second year in a row, Bama lost its opening game, but in 1976 the Tide didn't rebound as quickly as it had in 1975 and the result was a hard fall to a 9-3 season, only second place in the SEC and no major bowl game.

Alabama's 10-7 loss to Ole Miss in Jackson to start the season was a stunner, but nothing like what was to come. As expected, the Tide rebounded to convincing wins over SMU and Vanderbilt, but then Bama's wishbone suffered its first ever shutout, a 21-0 thrashing at the hands of Georgia in Athens. Although Alabama got back on the winning track the next week with a 24-8 win over Southern Miss, the effort wasn't particularly pleasing to coach Bryant and Bama had a "Sunday school lesson" the next day, a rare day-after-game practice.

"We won't practice tomorrow," said a happy coach Bryant the next Saturday after Bama took Tennessee for the sixth straight year, 20-13 in Knoxville. The Tide was winning again and looking forward to a trip to South Bend, Ind. to meet Notre Dame. That game was real salt in the wound, a 21-18 decision that gave the Irish a 3-0 lead in the series with wins by one, two and three points. However, the Tide was getting stronger as the year wore on and finished with its fourth straight victory over Auburn, 38-7.

UCLA had just missed going to the Rose Bowl and was a heavy favorite against Alabama in the Liberty Bowl. At a pregame dance in which both squads were present, a UCLA defensive lineman asked an Alabama player "which one is (Jim) Bunch." When Bunch, a comparatively small 6-1, 233-pounder who only moved quickly on the football field, was pointed out, the UCLA player laughed. Tide players would get the last and better laugh.

The weather was horrible for the Liberty Bowl, temperature in the 20s and a strong wind blowing. Anyone who was at the game will long remember the ski mask that all but completely covered coach Bryant's face. While the mask may have kept his face warm, the play of his Crimson Tide must have warmed his heart. Bama struck with blinding quickness and no one struck better than linebacker Barry Krauss, who would make 18 tackles and return an intercepted pass 44 yards for the game's first touchdown. Bama led 17-0 at the end of the first quarter, 24-0 at halftime and 27-0 going to the final period before giving up a late touchdown to the Bruins. The final score was 36-6 and Krauss was a runaway winner of the MVP award, something of a rarity for a linebacker. "Barry," said Alabama trainer Jim Goostree following the game, "the last time a sophomore linebacker had a game like that around here

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Jeff Rutledge finished his Alabama career by leading the Tide to its seventh SEC title in eight years, including a win over Florida (left).

was Lee Roy Jordan in the 1960 Bluebonnet Bowl. You keep your head screwed on right and something good might happen to you."

As important as the second consecutive bowl win, Bama felt that it had something to build on for 1977.

1977

"Our kicking game won it. We kicked them in the butt."

—Alabama offensive guard David Sadler, Jan. 2, 1978

Alabama had amends to make in 1977, and make them it did. The two conference losses to Ole Miss and Georgia in 1976 were avenged, and the Tide reclaimed the league championship in 1977.

Coach Bryant feels that if the defense is set to start the season, then things are in pretty good shape, the offense will come around. Bama's 1977 defense was far from set as the season got under way and it was often a struggle, but after a second game loss to Nebraska (24-31) in Lincoln, the Tide was beginning to roll. One of the nation's most difficult schedules didn't help things, but when Alabama upset No. 1-ranked Southern Cal 21-20 in Los Angeles the Tide was back in the national championship picture. Sophomore defensive end Wayne Hamilton was the hero against the Trojans, making 11 tackles, grabbing an interception when Curtis McGriff blocked a pass (that set up one of two Tony Nathan touchdowns), and forcing a bad pass with a great rush as Southern Cal went for the winning two-point conversion with only seconds to play. The Tide would trail only once more in the season, that after the SEC crown had been clinched with a 24-3 victory over LSU in early November. Bama fell behind Auburn, 7-0, but had little trouble in registering a fifth straight victory over the Tigers, 48-21.

It was then back to the Sugar Bowl and an historic football meeting, the first ever confrontation of two of football's biggest names, Ohio State and Alabama. And, as things turned out, bigger than the matchup of the teams was the meeting of the coaches, Ohio State's Woody Hayes and coach Bryant. They represented over 500 wins between them, coach Bryant with the most wins of any active coach, 272 at the time, and coach Hayes with the second most, 231. Alabama was hoping that circumstances would vault the Tide past unbeaten Texas and once-beaten Oklahoma to the national title. A 35-6 victory over Ohio State impressed the voters, but not as much as fifth-ranked Notre Dame's Cotton Bowl victory over Texas, played at the same time as the Sugar Bowl. It was the fourth time that Notre Dame had cost Bama the national championship. Jeff Rutledge edged teammate Johnny Davis for MVP honors in the Tide's third straight bowl triumph.

1978

"Gut check!"

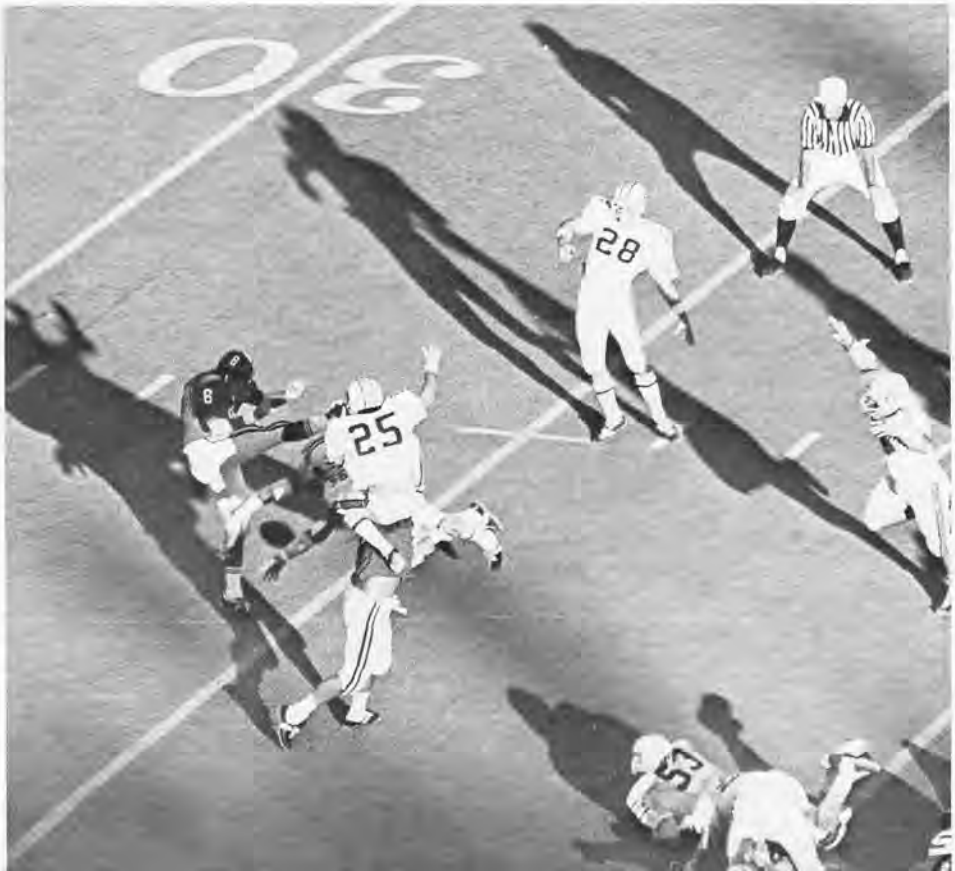
—Alabama strong safety Murray Legg, Jan. 1, 1979

Alabama's near miss in 1977 was rewarded with a first place spot in most preseason polls in 1978, several months too late to suit most Bama loyalists. Coach Bryant, of course, played down those preseason predictions. But when the last play of the season had been made on New Year's Day, 1979, Crimson Tide players, coaches and fans were cautiously optimistic. Bama was in position for its fifth national championship under coach Bryant.

When UPI came out with its poll first on the afternoon of Jan. 2, Alabama was again a bridesmaid, by the closest margin in the history of the poll. That closeness and the fact that six of the UPI voters didn't cast ballots didn't ease the pain for Alabama. Much of the state was up early the next morning because the AP vote was to be announced at 5:30 a.m. When it was announced, Alabama had taken that championship, along with the titles awarded by the American Football Writers Association (the Grantland Rice Award) and the National Football Foundation and Hall of Fame (the MacArthur Bowl).

It was a comeback of sorts for Bama, despite the pre-season rankings. The Tide had solidified its first place hold with a surprisingly easy season-opener over Nebraska, 20-3, avenging the loss that had cost the Tide the 1977 title. A come-from-behind win over Missouri in Columbia, 38-20, was keyed by E.J. Junior's blocked punt, which was picked up by Rickey Gilliland for a touchdown. However, with the tables reversed, Southern Cal upset No. 1-ranked Alabama 24-10 in Birmingham. The Tide had one more tough non-conference fight, besting Washington 20-17 in Seattle. Bama rolled through the SEC without much problem to a seventh title in eight years, but it was help from others that arranged the national championship game.

Ordinarily, no one's much pleased by a tie for a gift, but Alabama was thrilled with the one it got from Auburn. It had appeared late in the season that Georgia, which did not play Alabama, was going to tie Bama for the SEC championship. Under the agreement between the Sugar Bowl and the SEC that meant that Georgia would get the berth since Bama had been most recently. It also appeared that Nebraska, which had defeated Oklahoma and won the Orange Bowl berth as the Big Eight champion and which had leaped ahead of Alabama in the polls, would meet No.1-ranked Penn State in Miami. But fate stepped in. Georgia was held to a tie by



Auburn's last win over Alabama came in 1972, when the Tide was edged 17-16 after holding a 16-0 lead in the fourth quarter. Two blocked punts helped turn the tide. At left is one of the miscues, when Tiger Bill Newton (No. 56) blocked the kick, and his teammate David Langner (No. 28) ran the ball in for a score.

Auburn so that Bama could win the championship outright with a win over Auburn and Missouri upset Nebraska. Penn State opted for the Sugar Bowl.

It was a classic confrontation, No. 1 and undefeated Penn State against No. 2 (and pre-season No. 1) Alabama. And the game lived up to the billing. The fabulous Louisiana Superdome was packed with a record crowd of 76,824, a few of whom had paid scalpers up to $200 per ticket. The indoor stadium seemed ready to burst at any moment with anxiety in one of the most intense athletic contests every played.

Alabama dominated the first half, partly because of the outstanding punting of Woody Umphrey, but it appeared late in the second quarter that there would be no first half score. Alabama had the football at its own 20 with just over a minute to play. Penn State, hoping to get the ball back and give their great field goal kicker, Matt Bahr, a chance at a last-second score, called time out after a three-yard Alabama gain. A screen pass from Jeff Rutledge to Tony Nathan gained five and Penn State called time again. Penn State had averaged giving up only 54 yards per game rushing all year. On third down Nathan, who would get 127 yards rushing against the Lions, went for 30 yards, and now it was Alabama's turn to call time out.

Twenty one seconds remained in the first half and the Tide was on Penn State's 37. Nathan got seven yards and the Tide called time again. Fifteen seconds. Rutledge faded to pass, hoping to hit fullback Steve Whitman over the middle, but Whitman was covered and the Lions were putting a terrific rush on Rutledge. Bruce Bolton was a decoy on the play, flying from his split end position to take the cornerback and safety out of the play. But the safety didn't take the bait, and Bolton was open in the end zone. Rutledge passed slightly short, but Bolton pulled it in. He didn't have perfect control of the football, but the officials saw it as a touchdown and Bama went to the dressing room with a 7-0 lead and momentum.

An interception set the Lions up for a tying touchdown in the third quarter, but Bama got back into the driver's seat when the third team punt return man, Lou Ikner, took a 50-yard Penn State punt that was beyond the coverage and returned it 62 yards to the Lions' 11. Ikner was in the game because Nathan was injured and backup man Major Ogilvie had his face mask torn off by one of the many vicious Penn State tackles. Bama nearly botched this opportunity with a first down motion penalty, but on third down from the seven, Rutledge went left, brought the defense to him and then pitched to Ogilvie, who powered in for the go-ahead touchdown.

But the best was yet to come.

Coach Bryant is the first to give credit to others and the first to take the blame if there is any to take. But past history seems to point to one fact: Paul "Bear" Bryant is most likely the best man ever to coach a team in the game of football.

A goal line stand that will be remembered as one of the finest in college football and a most costly penalty against Penn State preserved the Alabama victory.

An Alabama fumble set Penn State up at the Tide's 19 halfway through the fourth quarter. One play gained 11 and it was first and goal. A run gained two and then 'Bama had the first of three great defensive plays. Fusina completed a pass to Fitzkee, who was unguarded, at the one. Don McNeal, who was in the end zone, came flying out and pushed Fitzkee out of bounds at the one. Penn State went with its bread-and-butter play, Matt Suhey up the middle. David Hannah submarined from his tackle spot and then linebacker Rich Wingo slammed Suhey down. Penn Stated called time out and Fusina went up to see how much the Lions would need on fourth down. Marty Lyons, who Fusina had met at several All-America functions, was blocking Fusina's view of the ball. "How far, Marty?" asked the Penn State quarterback. Lyons spread his hands and said "About 10 inches. You'd better pass."

Penn State didn't pass. Mike Guman got the call to go over the middle. He was met head on by Barry Krauss and slammed down for no gain (see pages 20-21). The collision knocked Krauss out, but it knocked Penn State from No. 1.

Bama still had one more storm to weather, but Penn State provided the shelter. The Tide got off a bad punt, out of bounds at the Alabama 20, but there were 12 Lions on the field. The resulting 15-yard penalty enabled Bama to keep the ball and get it away from the Penn State goal.

Krauss was named the game's Most Valuable Player, but it was really a recognition of the Alabama defense in one of the hardest-hitting football games ever played.

Two days later, Bama could begin the celebration of its fifth national championship.

THE HONORS

Not surprisingly, Bama had a long list of All-Americas in the 1970s. They were: Johnny Musso in 1970 and 1971; John Hannah in 1971 and 1972; Tom Surlas and Robin Parkhouse in 1971; John Mitchell and Jim Krapf in 1972; Woodrow Lowe in 1973, 1974 and 1975; Buddy Brown and Wayne Wheeler in 1973; Leroy Cook in 1974 and 1975; Mike Washington and Sylvester Croom in 1974; Ozzie Newsome in 1976 and 1977; Bob Baumhower in 1976; Bob Cryder, Wayne Hamilton and Johnny Davis in 1977; Marty Lyons and Barry Krauss in 1978.

The honors and accolades bestowed upon Alabama during the 1970's were made possible in part by the accomplishments of these and hundreds of other Crimson Tide athletes. But Bama fans can never neglect the moving force behind the many wins, conference titles, bowl bids and national championships of recent years.

As early as forty years ago, Paul "Bear" Bryant was recognized as "the greatest coaching prospect ever to graduate at Alabama." Today, football players, coaches, media and fans, having already deemed him the top coach of the 1960's, seem certain to observe the incredible string of Bama successes over the past nine years and again proclaim coach Bryant as "Coach-of-the-Decade". ★

The New Crimson Tiders

by Kirk McNair

Alabama head coach Paul "Bear" Bryant has made it a practice to withhold comment on a recruiting year. He points out that it's impossible to judge the young men until after they have been tested at the college level. This year, however, he did say that, "I'm happy with the ones we got, but I'm not happy because we lost so many good ones." Certainly Alabama had what must be considered a good recruiting year. While some of the so-called experts on prep recruiting did not put Alabama among the top, others listed Bama's year among the nation's "Top Ten."

Before the Crimson Tide won the Sugar Bowl and the resulting national championship, Bama had 25 names on the dotted line. One of those, tight end Rick Sharp of Carmel, Ind., signed a national letter with UCLA, where he plans to play football and basketball. Since the Sugar Bowl, the Tide signed one more player, back Ken Simon of Montgomery. Ken was late signing because he is an outstanding trackman as well as a football player and as a result, didn't get to make his recruiting trips until late.

The mystery is, why did Bama have little luck on out-of-state blue-chip prospects after having won the national title? In addition to that advantage, the Tide boasts the nation's best-known head coach, a great tradition and the prospect of a coming event that will rank among the greatest achievements in college football, coach Bryant breaking Amos Alonzo Stagg's all-time record for college football victories. Alabama had 14 of those blue-chip prospects on its list to receive the final five scholarships. In most cases, the Tide finished second. Several were in Florida, where ex-Tider Charley Pell saved a disastrous recruiting year with a blitz that got all of the unsigned Sunshine State prospects to commit to the Gators.

But while the post-bowl recruiting efforts were disappointing, the overall picture of the class of 1983 is a good one. Here is a look at the men who will wear the Crimson and White over the next few years:

AL BLUE, defensive back, 6-2, 175, Maitland, Fla., Edgewater High School. Al was one of five Alabama signees who was named to the 22-man High School Coaches All-America Team. Al played for coach Bob Dolce and was a three-year starter. As a sophomore, he was a split end, but he switched to safety at mid-season and was a fixture there for the remainder of his prep career. He was selected to Florida's "Sweet 16" list of top performers. He had five interceptions as a senior, including two in one game, which he returned for a total of 70 yards. He averaged six tackles per game as his team went 10-2 and reached the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. He has been all-conference the past two years. He was also one of Florida's top prep basketball players.

LARRY BROWN, defensive end, 6-3, 227, Pembroke Pines, Fla., McArthur. Larry was a tight end on offense and a tackle on defense for coach Steve Spradling. He was a three-year starter, a linebacker as a sophomore, and tight end and tackle his last two years. He has been all-city the past two years as he averaged over eight tackles and three receptions per game. He was his team's most valuable defensive player as a senior. In addition to football letters, Larry earned letters in basketball and baseball. His father, Laurence Brown, Jr., played football at Southern Miss.

REGINALD BROWN, running back, 5-11, 190, Brewton, T.R. Miller. Reggie was a four-year starter as a running back for coach Frank Cotton. As a senior, he led his team to a 10-2 record and into the state playoffs. He had over 1,300 yards on 178 rushes as a senior, an average of almost seven and a half yards per rush. His top one-game performance last fall saw him pick up 178 yards and score four touchdowns against Pensacola Catholic. He also saw spot duty at noseguard during his prep career. He had 600 yards rushing as a freshman, 930 as a sophomore and as a junior 1,014, for a total of over 4,100 yards for his career. He had 12 career touchdowns rushing. He was his team's offensive captain. This spring Reggie was a member of the T.R. Miller track team. A cousin, Marvin Williams, played football at Auburn.

JEREMIAH CASTILLE, running back-defensive back, 5-11, 169, Phenix City, Central. Jeremiah was his team's punter early in the season, but then another player took over punting chores and that situation would mark the only time in games that Jeremiah was not on the field for coach Wayne Trawick. He was named Player-of-the-Year in the Bi-City (Phenix City and Columbus, Ga.) area. He had 116 rushes for 862 yards and eight touchdowns and caught 16 passes for 266 yards and six touchdowns, he also turned in six interceptions, one of which he returned for a touchdown. He also ran track (sprinter and triple jumper) and played basketball.

KENNETH COLEY, quarterback, 5-11, 183, Birmingham, Erwin. Ken played for former Alabama All-American defensive back Bobby Johns. As a senior, Ken hit 60 of 117 passes for 1,056 yards and had 797 yards rushing. He suffered only three interceptions all season. His top game saw him rush 27 times for 151 yards and hit 11 of 16 passes for 208 yards, rushing for one touchdown and passing for one. He was named to all-county, all-state and the Alabama Super 11 team. Three times he was named Player-of-the-Week, including once by the Birmingham Touchdown Club the night that organization honored coach Bryant on his 65th birthday. He earned three football letters as well as two each in track and baseball and was captain of his football team as a senior. Ken comes from an athletic family: his father Bob, his uncle Billy and his brother Bob Jr. all participated in college athletics.

DOUG COLLINS, tackle, 6-4, 245, Andalusia. Considered the top prospect in Alabama by virtually every poll, Doug played both tackle and center on offense and tackle and nose guard on defense for coach Don Sharpe on teams that compiled a 35-1-1 record the three years he started. He was named to the 22-man High School Coaches All-America team and every other prep All-America squad. His teams won two state championships in the three years he started. Although a lineman, his 4.8 time in the 40 was third-fastest on his team. He was captain of his team both his junior and senior years. In addition to his football letters, he was a two-year letterman in track and field, and a one-year letterman in basketball. Doug announced three weeks before the signing date that Alabama was his choice of schools.

EARL COLLINS, running back, 6-1, 190, Mobile, Davidson. Earl played fullback in the veer offense and tailback in the I offense for coach David Cahoon. He was a two-year starter and captain of his team as a senior. As a junior, he was the leading rusher and scorer in the Mobile area, picking up 1,107 yards on 200 rushes. He was injured as a senior and missed part of the

Michael Landrum was a two-time all-state and All-Southern quarterback-defensive back and was named All-America as a senior at Nanafalia HS in Sweet Water.

season, but nevertheless rushed 110 times for 851 yards. His best one-game performance came in his junior year when he rushed for 227 yards and three touchdowns in a homecoming win over McGill. He was all-region as a junior and senior. He has also started for the basketball team the past two years as a forward.

RANDY EDWARDS, lineman, 6-4, 248, Marietta, Ga., Wheeler. Randy was also named to the High School Coaches 22-man prep All-America team, as well as almost all other high school All-America squads. He was first team all-state and considered among the top prospects in Georgia. He was two-time all-metro as a mainstay for coach Corky Kell's team. Alabama coaches feel that he has the potential to be outstanding at any of several line positions, offensively or defensively.

JOHN ELIAS, noseguard, 6-2½, 217, Columbus, Ga. John was most valuable player for coach Alvin "Pig" Davis' Columbus High team and was named to the All-Bi-City (Columbus and Phenix City) team. He was also chosen for the Georgia all-star game. He turned in over 90 primary tackles as a senior and also blocked four punts. His top one-game performance saw him make 21 tackles, including two sacks, and recover a fumble. John earned three letters in football, primarily as a linebacker but also playing occasionally at end and down positions, and also saw some duty on offense at running back in his career. He also lettered as a basketball center.

JEFF FAGAN, running back, 6-1, 195, Hollywood, Fla., Miramar. Jeff was named the Player-of-the-Year in the South Broward area as a senior as he rushed for over 1,100 yards last fall. He was a three-year regular for coach Jim Scroggins. He had almost 1,000 yards rushing as a junior. His top single game came his senior year as he rushed for three touchdowns and 273 yards (on 31 carries) and was named the Miami Player-of-the-Week. His teams were 19-2 over the past two years and he was all-county both seasons. He was also chosen for the Florida all-star game. In addition to his football letters, he earned letters in track as a quartermiler. Jeff saw occasional duty at safety, but was primarily a running back.

ROOSEVELT HILL, linebacker, 6-0, 190, Newnan, Ga., Although Roosevelt performed primarily at linebacker for coach Max Bass, he has also seen duty on offense the past two years as a tight end and blocking back. He is expected to be a strong safety at Alabama. Roosevelt was listed as one of the top five prospects in Georgia by an Atlanta newspaper. He was a two-year football starter and three-year letter-

(continued)

man. As a senior, he led his team with 132 tackles and was named defensive captain. His cousin, Drew Hill, starred at Georgia Tech. Roosevelt also participated in track as a shot put man. He has a 92 (out of 100) academic average.

DANNY HOLCOMBE, center, 6-2, 237, Marietta, Ga., Wheeler. A teammate of new signee Randy Edwards on coach Corky Kell's team, Danny saw action in only five games as a senior because of a broken foot but nevertheless earned second team all-metro honors. He had been a preseason all-metro selection. He had the leading blocking average on his team as a junior. Danny earned three prep letters as a center and also saw spot duty on defense at end and tackles. He was captain of his team as a senior.

CLARKE JOHNSON, defensive end, 6-4, 220, Opp. Clarke was the most valuable defensive lineman in his conference as a senior playing tackle and noseguard for coach Randy Griffin's 9-2 Opp team, but is expected to be an end at Alabama. Although he missed two games in the middle of his senior year with a knee injury, he led his team to a 9-2 record and into the state playoffs. He was a four-year starter at various positions — defensive end and tackle, noseguard and center. Clarke was all-conference both as a junior and senior. He blocked a punt to set up a touchdown in a victory over Elba.

MICHAEL LANDRUM, quarterback-defensive back, 6-1, 178, Nanafalia, Sweet Water. Although a 1A (smallest) classification player, Michael was named to the state's Super 11 team as well as 1A Player-of-the-Year. He was a two-time all-state and All-Southern player and was All-America as a senior. As a four-year letterman and three-year starter (split end his first two seasons and quarterback as a senior, as well as defensive halfback), he led coach Nolan Atkins' team to a 42-6-1 record, including a 13-0 mark and state championship last year. As a senior he hit 59-of-113 passes for 1,333 yards and 19 touchdowns and rushed for 770 yards and 18 touchdowns. He was captain of his team as a senior. His sister, Beatrice, is married to former Bama track star Reggie Phillips. Michael's top one-game performance last year saw him pass for 201 yards and rush for 153 yards. He also earned five letters as an infielder and pitcher in baseball.

MICHAEL McQUEEN, offensive guard, 6-5, 227, Enterprise. Mike spent two consecutive years at the same school for the first time in his life and was a two-year starter for coach Bill Bacon. He is the son of a retired Army officer (and as a result has traveled extensively). He was named all-state, Super 11 and All-South as a senior. His teams went 17-3 the two years he played at Enterprise and he was captain of his squad as a senior. Michael was a tight end as a sophomore (in Virginia) and as a junior, then played primarily at guard as a senior. He also earned two letters as a starting forward on the basketball team. He also snapped on kicks. His father played football, basketball and ran track at Presbyterian and several uncles and cousins have been active in college sports, including former Tennessee assistant coach Lyde Huggins (now a scout for Dallas) and former Auburn All-America swimmer Scott Spann.

STEVE MOTT, center, 6-3½, 250, Gretna, La., Archbishop Shaw. Steve also was named to the prestigious 22-man High School Coaches All-America team. Playing for coach Joe Zimmerman, he was considered one of the top prospects in the nation. He was a four-year letterman and three-year starter on teams that went 21-12 the three seasons he started. He was captain of his team as a senior. In addition to his football letters, he earned three letters in track as a shot put and discus man. He was all-state in football as a junior and senior.

RY OGILVIE, receiver-running back-safety, 6-2, 187, Birmingham, Vestavia Hills. Ry, of course, is the brother of Tide running back Major. He was considered the top back prospect in Alabama, but is expected to be a wide receiver at Alabama. He led coach Buddy Anderson's team to a second place finish in the state last fall. As a senior, Ry had 53 tackles and four interceptions and as a running back had 86 carries for 474 yards and one touchdown, a 73-yard scamper. He also caught 10 passes for 94 yards and two touchdowns. In addition, he quick-kicked four times for a 47-yard average. He, too, was named to the High School Coaches All-America team, as well as All-South and all-state squads. He was defensive captain of his team as a senior. In addition to his two football letters, Ry (real name Riley Harris) earned three in track and was state runner-up in the 220 as a junior.

JERRY OLIVER, fullback, 6-1½, 222, Perdido, Baldwin County. Jerry was a three-year starter as a fullback (playing in Hattiesburg as a sophomore) and was a linebacker as a sophomore and junior. Last fall for coach Lyle Underwood, he rushed for 964 yards on 169 carries and had 14 rushing TDs to lead the Mobile area in rushing and scoring. He was county MVP and was all-county and all-region as a junior and senior. He was captain of his team as a senior. In addition to rushing, he also had over 100 yards receiving and in kick returns. Jerry also has participated in track as a shot put man.

MERV ROMINE, quarterback-linebacker, 6-1, 185, Phil Campbell. Merv, who played for his father, coach Alton Romine (former North Alabama and professional footballer and Green Bay roommate of Bart Starr), ran a pro-set offense, completing 134 of 244 passes for 1,612 yards and 16 touchdowns. He also rushed for 635 yards and eight TDs. He returned kickoffs and punts and also was his team's punter. As a linebacker, he turned in 107 primary tackles and 41 assists and picked off five interceptions. His top one-game performance saw him rush for 123 yards, pass for 232 yards and make nine tackles and two interceptions. He also had a fine regional playoff game in which he completed eight-of-eight passes, two for touchdowns. He was a four-year football letterman and earned three each in track (he was state hurdles champion) and basketball. His brother, Stan, played football at Auburn.

Clarke Johnson played tackle and noseguard at Opp. but is likely to be an end for Bear Bryant. He was all-conference for two years.

Jeff Fagan rushed for more than 1,100 yards as a senior and was Player-of-the-Year in the South Broward area.

ROBERT RUSSELL, offensive lineman-linebacker, 6-3, 213, Demopolis. Robert was a member of Alabama's Super 11 team and led coach Fred Schoenrock's team to a state playoff berth. During Robert's three years of football, Demopolis had a 25-5 record. As a senior, he averaged 12 individual tackles and eight assists per game from his middle linebacker position. He was an outside linebacker as a sophomore and as a junior. He led his team in interceptions with seven, three of which he returned for touchdowns. He won his team's 110 Percent Award the last three years and was captain of the defense both as a junior and senior, and team MVP as a senior. He was also a starter on the basketball team.

DEXTER RUTHERFORD, tackle, 6-5, 240, Hatton. Dexter earned All-America recognition as a senior when he led coach Danny Stallings' team to its fourth straight winning season. He played both offensive and defensive tackle and occasionally saw duty at guard on offense as a four-year letterman. He also lettered four years in basketball as a center. He was three years all-county and all-area and all-state as a senior. His 87 tackles last year led his team defensively. He was named captain of both his football and basketball teams as a senior. He was named Hatton's outstanding offensive lineman.

MASON SCHWARZ, linebacker, 6-0, 225, Savannah, Savannah Christian. Mason was a two-year all-state performer for coach Bubba Attwood and played for three years on teams that went 30-4, including back-to-back state independent league championships his junior and senior seasons. He was named his team's captain and MVP following his senior season. A middle linebacker, he was his team's leading tackler, averaging eight individual tackles per game. His most outstanding performance saw him make 16 solo tackles and assist on seven others. He also earned two track letters as a shot put man. Mason is a licensed ham radio operator.

KEN SIMON, running back-defensive back, 6-1, 185, Montgomery, Robert E. Lee. Alabama track coaches are likely to be as excited about the signing of Ken as are Tide football coaches. In this year's Alabama state track meet, Ken was not expected to turn in a top performance since he was still hampered by a leg injury suffered in a winter track meet, but he set a new state record in the 120-yard high hurdles of 13.69, breaking Richmond Flowers' 13-year-old record. Ken was hampered last football season by an injury, but still earned all-state mention for his performance. His best game saw him score five touchdowns against Opelika for coach Bo Boswell's Lee team.

Ry Ogilvie, brother of Major Ogilvie, is expected to be a Tide wide receiver, although he has running back and safety experience.

Doug Collins runs a 4.8 40-yard dash and was the top prospect in the state. He'll play on the offensive or defensive line.

ROOSEVELT WILDER, running back, 5-11, 195, Macon, Central. Roosevelt was a three-year starter, playing his first two seasons under coach Larry Parker and last year under coach Carl Summers. He rushed for 1,197 yards as a senior with five rushing touchdowns and also had two touchdowns on kick returns and three on pass receptions. He had total offense of 3,200 yards in his three-year career. He was his team's MVP two years, captain as a senior and earned all-state and All-America honors. His top single-game performance was rushing 24 times for 337 yards. He also saw limited duty at linebacker. Roosevelt also earned three letters in track as a sprinter and hurdler.

RUSS WOOD, tight end-linebacker, 6-3, 205, Elba. Russ played for his father, coach Mack Wood, for the 9-2 Elba High team that ended Andalusia's 58-game winning streak. As a receiver, he had 24 pass receptions for 389 yards and as a linebacker, he turned in 128 tackles his senior year. For his career, he caught passes for over 1,000 yards and he earned three prep football letters. As a senior, he had four pass interceptions and recovered three fumbles. He saw little action at running back, but it was very successful — one pass attempt for a 29-yard touchdown and three rushes for six yards and three touchdowns. He was all-state two years and selected for the state all-star game. ★

1979 UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA FOOTBALL RECRUITS

NAME	POS.	HT.	WT.	HOMETOWN	HIGH SCHOOL
Al Blue	DB	6-2	175	Maitland, Fla.	Edgewater
Larry Brown	DE	6-3	227	Pembroke Pines, Fla.	McArthur
Reggie Brown	RB	5-11	202	Brewton	T.R. Miller
Jeremiah Castille	RB-DB	5-11	169	Phenix City	Central
Kenneth Coley	QB	5-10	172	Birmingham	Erwin
Doug Collins	LB	6-4	240	Andalusia	Andalusia
Earl Collins	RB	6-1	190	Mobile	Davidson
Randy Edwards	LB	6-4	248	Marietta, Ga.	Wheeler
Johnny Lee Elias	NG	6-2	207	Columbus, Ga.	Columbus
Jeff Fagan	RB	6-1	188	Hollywood, Fla.	Miramar
Roosevelt Hill	LB	6-0	190	Newnan, Ga.	Newnan
Danny Holcombe	C	6-2	237	Marietta, Ga.	Wheeler
Clarke Johnson	DE	6-3	222	Opp	Opp
Mike Landrum	QB-DB	6-1	178	Sweet Water	Sweet Water
Mike McQueen	OG	6-5	227	Enterprise	Enterprise
Steve Mott	C	6-3½	250	Gretna, La.	Archbishop Shaw
Ry Ogilvie	RB-R-S	6-3	188	Birmingham	Vestavia Hills
Jerry Oliver	FB	6-1	222	Perdido	Baldwin County
Merv Romine	QB-LB	6-1	185	Phil Campbell	Phil Campbell
Robert Russell	OLB-LB	6-3	212	Demopolis	Demopolis
Dexter Rutherford	T	6-5	240	Hatton	Hatton
Mason Schwarz	LB	6-0	225	Savannah, Ga.	Christian
Kenneth Simon	RB-DB	6-1	185	Montgomery	Robert E. Lee
Roosevelt Wilder	RB	5-11	195	Macon, Ga.	Central
Russ Wood	TE-LB	6-3	190	Elba	Elba

BAMA SCORECARD

ACADEMIC ALL-SEC

University of Alabama baseball first baseman Gary Jack had the highest academic average among Southeastern Conference players making the Academic All-SEC team, a 2.79 (on a 3.0 scale) in Education. Jack is a sophomore from Sherman, Texas. Also making the Academic All-SEC baseball team was shortstop Steve Houlberg, a senior from Miami.

RILEY RESIGNS

Hayden Riley, a fixture in the University of Alabama department of athletics for some 20 years, has been forced to resign as assistant athletics director and head baseball coach due to health reasons. It was discovered this spring that coach Riley is diabetic and his doctors recommended that he not continue such strenuous work. He has served as head basketball coach and as football recruiter in addition to his most recent duties.

BAMA ON TELEVISION

For the second consecutive year, the University of Alabama football team will open the season for ABC-TV. The Tide will meet Georgia Tech in Atlanta (Grant Field) with kickoff at 4:50 p.m. EDT Saturday, Sept. 8. The game had originally been scheduled for Sept. 15, but was moved for television. Keith Jackson will do the play-by-play, but the color commentator has not been announced.

ATHLETE-OF-THE-YEAR

Alabama basketball star Reggie King, a senior from Birmingham, has been named the Tide's Athlete-of-the-Year. King, who broke eight Bama records and NIT record, has been the SEC's Basketball Player-of-the-Year and All-America the past two years. He is the Tide's representative for SEC Athlete-of-the-Year, to be announced at a banquet at the Presidential Park Quality Inn in Atlanta Friday, June 22. Each Alabama head coach nominated a player to determine the Tide's representative. Other nominees were Jeff Rutledge in football, Mark Tonelli in swimming, Jimmy Carr in wrestling, James Mallard in track, Barry Harwell in golf, Joe Harvey in tennis and Steve Houlberg in baseball.

Tide assistant director and baseball coach Hayden Riley resigned from the Alabama department of athletics due to health reasons.

SHEALY HONORED

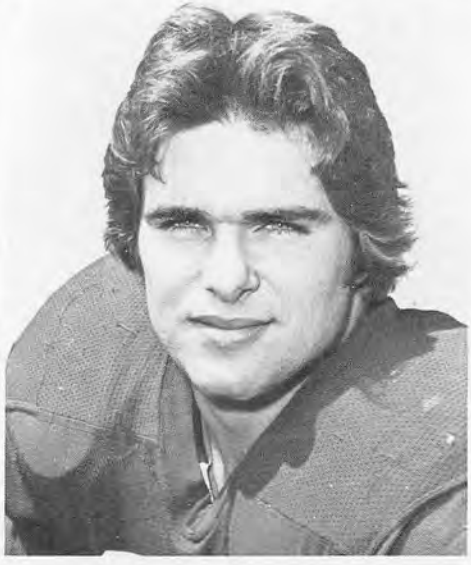
Alabama quarterback Steadman Shealy had a full agenda this spring when the University had its honors day. Steadman was inducted into ODK, Mortar Board and Kappa Delta Pi honoraries and was recognized in the College of Education as being in the top one percent academically in that school. Steadman is a top candidate for Academic All-America as a senior.

THORNTON RETURNS

Longtime University of Alabama assistant athletics director Charley Thornton resigned from the University this spring to become the new director of athletics at the University of Miami. However, late this spring Charley elected to resign the position at Miami and return to the Crimson Tide fold. Although he is probably best known to the public as the host of the Bear Bryant Television Show each Sunday, Charley is a top-flight administrator and Bama is happy to welcome him back.

DEWEY MITCHELL THROWN

Former Alabama linebacker-defensive end Dewey Mitchell, who served this past season as a student assistant football coach, has long been one of the nation's top heavyweight judo performers. This year he won the National AAU title in his division and appeared to be a top contender for the 1980 Olympics. He had been first alternate for the 1976 Olympic Games. However, the National Olympic Committee has ruled that because Dewey tried out for the Chicago Bears of the NFL, and was paid during the tryout camp, he is now a professional and not eligible for Olympic competition. The decision is being appealed. ★



Above: Alabama basketball star Reggie King was named the Tide's Athlete-of-the-Year. Right: Charlie Thornton returns to the Crimson Tide fold. Far right: Former Alabama linebacker-defensive end Dewey Mitchell is appealing a decision which, if reversed, could help send him to the 1980 Olympics.

SPORTS OF OTHER SORTS (besides football)

by Kirk McNair

Alabama made a good run at this year's Southeastern Conference all-sports championship, picking up championships in football and golf and competing strongly in most other sports.

Looking ahead to next year in sports other than football, it appears that things will be better for most. Here's a sport-by-sport update:

BASKETBALL — Alabama head basketball coach C.M. Newton loses one of the nation's best players and perhaps the best offensive basketball player in Crimson Tide history in Reggie "Mule" King. However, there is a good nucleus upon which to build a team this fall. Eddie Phillips was named the SEC's Freshman Player-of-the-Year in several polls as he broke the freshman scoring record held by Leon Douglas with a 14.5 points per game average in his maiden season. Eddie also pulled down 7.4 rebounds per game and broke Reggie King's record for one season field goal percentage, hitting 60.2 percent of his shots. Ken Johnson returns at the other inside position for his third starting season in as many years at Alabama. "Silk," as he is known for his smooth style of play, averaged 10.7 points per game. Guard play should be outstanding with returning starters Robert "Rah Rah" Scott and Joe Hancock coming up for their senior seasons. Scott closed last season with a flourish, playing very well in the SEC and NIT tournaments, and he appears to be ready to take a real leadership role for the 1979-80 Tide campaign. Scott averaged 10.2 points per game and set a Bama record for assists with 191 last year. Hancock was in and out of hot water during his junior season, but should settle down after his initial year at Alabama from the junior college ranks.

Four players who performed in backup roles as freshmen last season are expected to become top performers in the near future. Guard Eddie Adams averaged 7.9 points per game; center Phillip Lockett 3.9 points and 3.6 rebounds and turned in 32 blocked shots; forward Carl Mitchell 1.3 points; and forward Maurice Myers half a point after missing much early work with an injury.

Alabama was not considered to have had a bang-up basketball recruiting year, primarily because the Tide has had little luck in going out of state for players and it was not a senior year for Alabama high school players. Nevertheless, Alabama did sign the state's No. 1 prospect, guard Mike Davis of Fayette. Also coming into the Bama camp will be Eugene Jones of Bessemer, Cliff Windham of Livingston and Vance Wheeler of Nashville, Tenn.

Wayne Chester, two-time SEC diving champion, will return for coach Don Gambril next year.

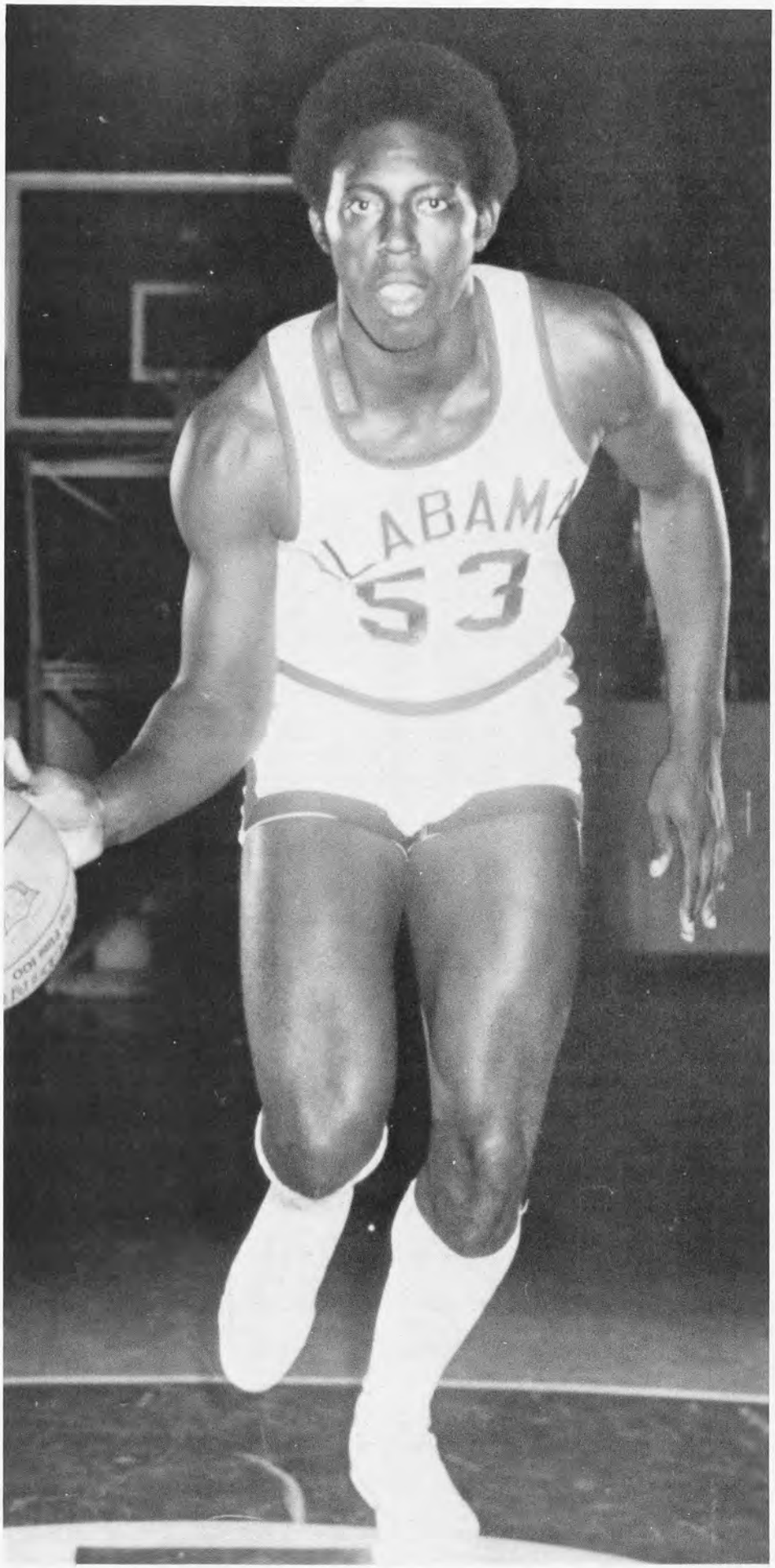
SWIMMING — Alabama head coach Don Gambril has had another outstanding recruiting year, perhaps assuring Bama of a sixth straight national top ten finish. Alabama returns several top performers, including perhaps the league's outstanding freshman talent of last year, Arne Borgstrom of Odda, Norway. Also back are two-time SEC diving champion (and NCAA diving champion as a freshman) Wayne Chester, who missed some action late in the year with an injury suffered when he hit the board in a practice dive. Sprinter Don Hornby had the type of freshman season one would expect after having been the nation's fastest prep freestyler.

Top newcomers include two Alabama state champions, Wiley Orton and Scott Reeder, while out-of-state newcomers include Keith Clinton of Philadelphia, Greg Higginson and John Ravenhill, both of Cincinnati, Bob Ramoska of Oak Park, Ill. and Brendan McCarthy of Charlottesville, Va. All have times that would have scored in this year's SEC championships.

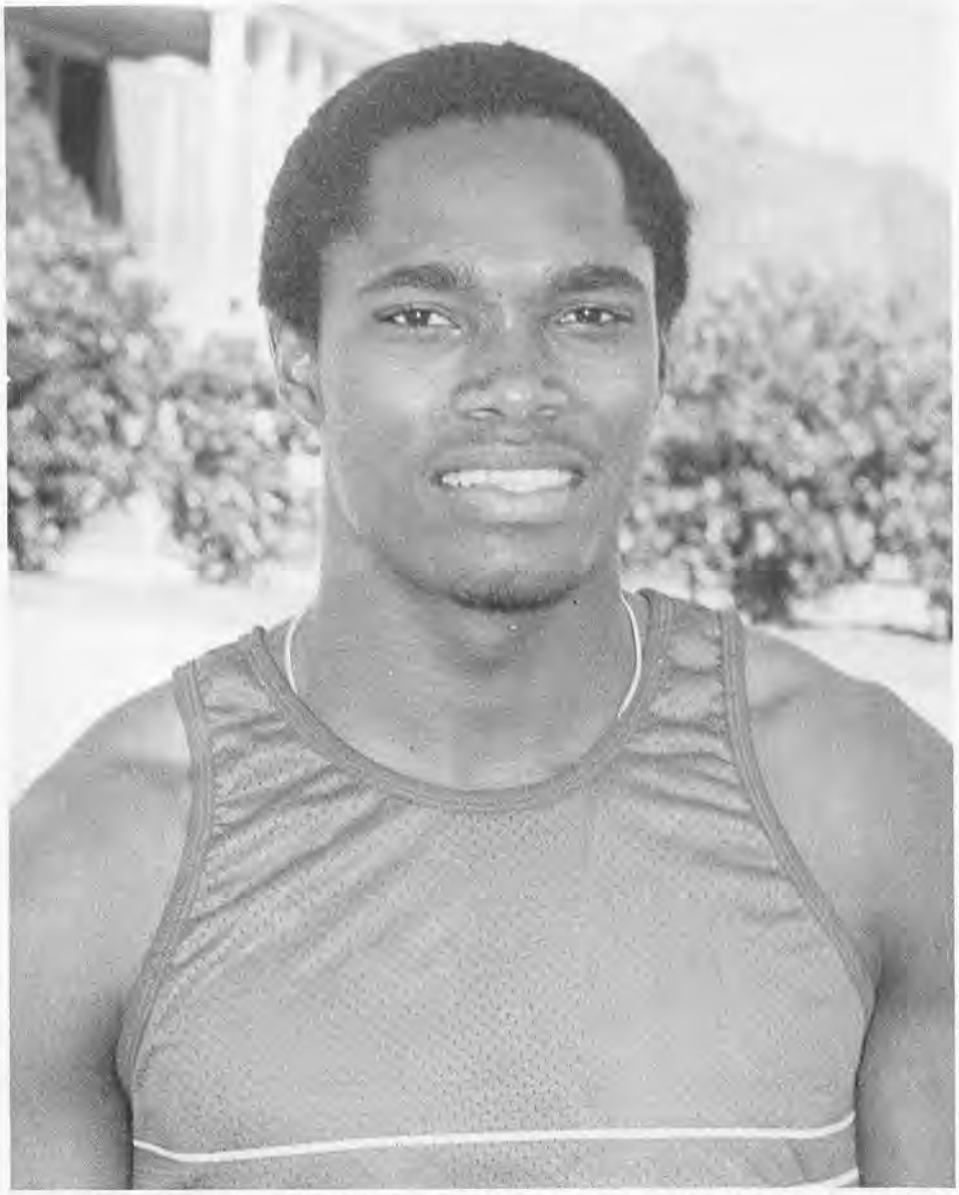
TRACK AND FIELD — Alabama has been just short of competitive for the SEC championship in track and field over the past few years, but there are some bright spots on the team and things should be looking up for head coach John Mitchell. The Tide was third again in this year's competition, but two of Bama's four SEC champions and six others who recorded strong performances return next year.

Bama has one of the hottest names in the sport in junior James Mallard (who is also expected to play football next fall). Mallard has run the fourth fastest time in the world in the 200 meters and has had another mark that would have been a world

(continued)



Eddie Phillips was the SEC Freshman Player-of-the-Year and scored 14.5 points per game to go with 7.4 rebounds.



James Mallard has run the fourth-fastest time in the world in the 200 meters. In addition to helping John Mitchell's track squad, Mallard is expected to join the football team next fall.

record but the automatic timing device that is necessary to time world marks failed. He was an easy winner over the likes of Auburn's Harvey Glance in the SEC championships in this event and also had a third place finish in the 100 meters.

The Tide is going to have one of the strongest high jump contingents in the nation next year with three who have jumped seven feet or better: juniors Jeff Woodard (SEC champion) and Tom Wise and incoming freshman Rod Rudolph of Albertville.

Bama signed one of the nation's top hurdlers last year in Steve Parker and this year the Tide may pick up another in his class from football recruit Ken Simon of Montgomery.

Ike Levine in the 400 meters, Greg Martin in the field events and Gary Martin in decathlon are others who should continue to be top performers for the Tide.

TENNIS — Tide head coach Armi Neely is building his team after his second year at Alabama. As an international player, it's not surprising that Neely's first signee for next year is Michael Wennberg of Goteborg, Sweden. He is the third-ranked junior in Sweden, but the two ranked in front of him in his country also rank No. 1 and No. 3 in the world. Michael suffered a broken hand two years ago that kept him out of much of the season and coach Neely feels that his potential is very high.

With three freshmen and three sophomores having made up the Alabama team through most of this year, the future looks bright for Bama tennis. Returning experienced players are sophomores Pat Perrin, Cuan Neethling and Malcolm Elley and freshmen Mark Buckley, John Evert and Joe Harvey.

GOLF — Bama head coach Conrad Rehling has been recognized for years as one of the nation's outstanding golf instructors. He was rewarded this year when the Crimson Tide won its first ever SEC championship and he was named Coach-of-the-Year in the SEC. The tragedy was that for the first time in history the NCAA did not take the SEC champion, even though four SEC schools were invited to the NCAA championships. The official explanation was that Bama had not done well enough throughout the year to merit an invitation. It has always been coach Rehling's practice to use different team members each week in tournaments so that his top players do not miss too many days of classes. College golf tournaments often require missing three or four days of school. Apparently this practice cost Alabama an NCAA bid this year, but don't look for coach Rehling to change his philosophy on this.

Because he plays so many men, it is almost never a rebuilding year for Alabama golf, but the upcoming season comes close to it. Only Cecil Ingram and Steve Hudson return from the five-man team that won the SEC title. However, sophomores Kevin DeNike and Lee Rinker, junior Harry Zaruba and senior Gary Wilks all have the tools to be good players.

New signees include Talbert Griffin of Montgomery, Steve Lowery of Birmingham and Tom Garner of Pompano Beach, Fla.

BASEBALL — Unquestionably the biggest question mark in the men's athletics program, baseball should get the normal boost that comes from a change in coaches. However, the new Bama baseball coach will be looking at a team that has virtually no experience returning on the mound and only limited experience at almost every other position. Seven of the nine men who pitched for Alabama this year have graduated and one of the returnees is not expected to pitch in 1980 (Gary Jack). The infield is also wiped out by graduation with only Jack at first base and Sal Valenti at second with experience. Two catchers return, Dave Atkins and Maxie Kizzire, as does one experienced outfielder, Bellaire Riley.

The coaching change has also put recruiting behind schedule.

It will definitely be a big hurdle for the Alabama baseball team to be competitive in 1980.

WOMEN'S SPORTS — Future issues of BAMA will include an update on women's athletics at Alabama. ★

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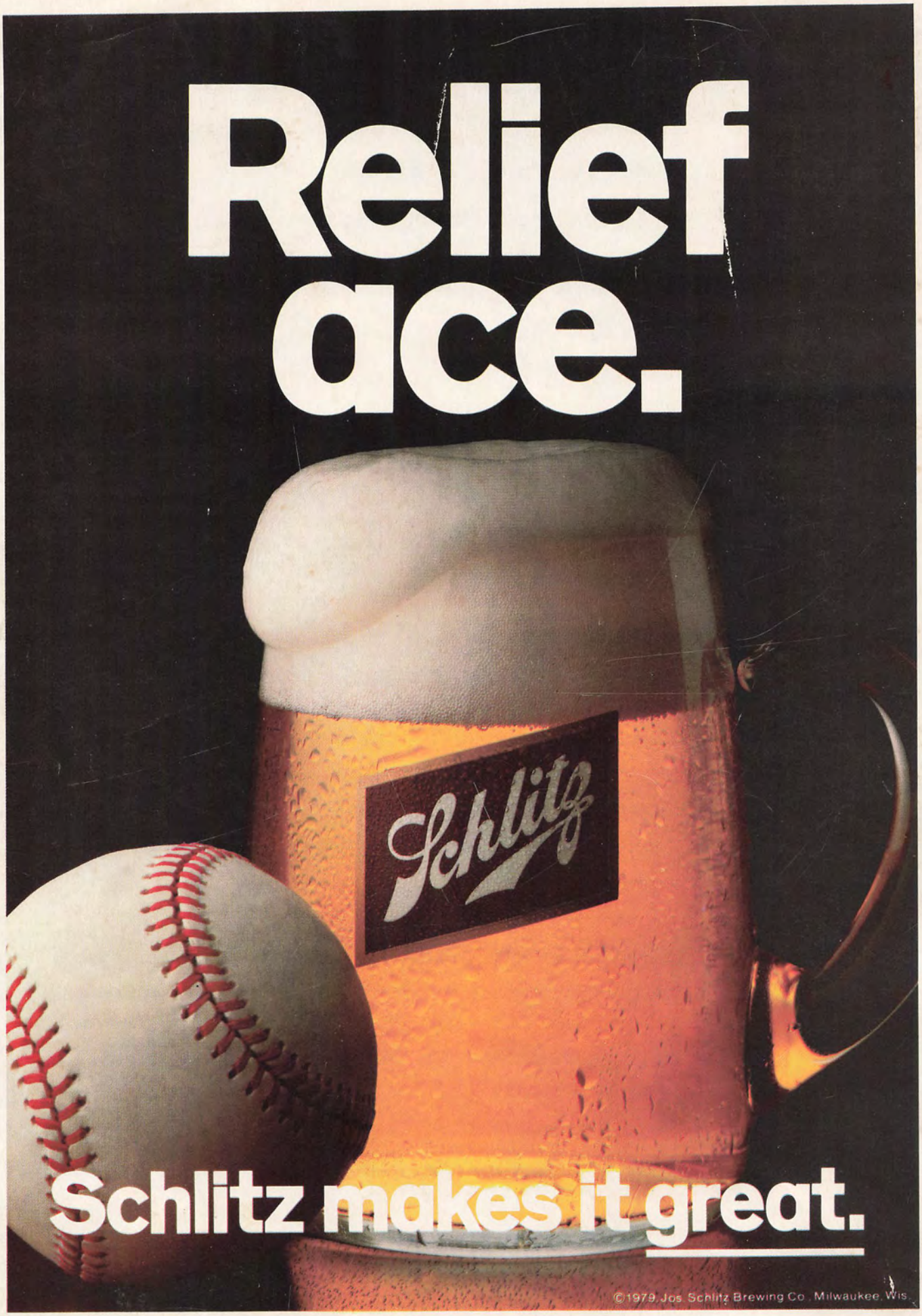
INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE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